

# The Return of JESUS CHRIST

What Bible Prophecies Reveal  
about the Second Coming

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## Chapter 1

# JESUS CHRIST

THE SAME

YESTERDAY,

TODAY,

FOREVER!

(Patterns for the New Millennium)

by Jon R. Welker

*"For I am the LORD, I change not;  
therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."*

*Malachi 3:6*

*"Jesus Christ the same yesterday,  
and to day, and for ever."*

*Hebrews 13:8*

*"Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.  
We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to  
keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was  
fading away. But their minds were made dull, for to this day  
the same veil remains when the old covenant is read, it has  
not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away."*

■ *Corinthians 3:12-14 (NIV)*



***"For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept;  
line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little...."***

***Isaiah 28:10***

**2,000 A.D.! A new MILLENNIUM!** It evokes a sense of awe and historical importance. I cannot but be humbled in trying to write an article that I realize may be my last for this, well, uh, "millennium." My thoughts and prayers have been along this line:

*"Lord, there are so many people who are commenting about this time; the hopes, fears and aspirations of mankind for a 'new age.' What would You have me present to our readers, friends and students as that which will truly be beneficial for them at this important point in history? What can I share that will stand the test of time and educate people as to how to be equipped to enter this new millennium?"* So went my thoughts and communion with the Lord. . . .

Then one evening I took a long walk down one of the country roads near Shepherdsfield. It was an unseasonably warm evening; and the sun was just above the horizon, with the moon rising in a clear evening sky. I stopped near a beautiful pasture with cattle grazing on one side of the road and horses on the other side. I was once again impressed by the beauty and *DESIGN* of God.

As I was pondering His creation, I looked up again to His heavens and beheld the sun setting and the moon rising. Immediately my thoughts were taken back to the *pattern* of the Passover and the wonderful *DESIGN* of God by which even ***"the heavens declare the glory of God"*** (Ps. 19:1). I remembered that on the evening of the 14th of the first month on the Hebrew calendar, called Nisan, the sun sets in the heavenly sign of Aries (the Ram – a male sheep). The full moon is seen rising at that same time.

I continued to meditate on the symbolism of these heavenly bodies and their positions at Passover and the other Bib-

lical Festivals. The sun symbolizes the "Sun of Righteousness" (*Mal. 4:2*) even Jesus Christ – "*the Lamb of God.*" And the moon, in one application, symbolizes the human *soul*, which reflects the light (spiritual light and life) of the sun. On Passover is beautifully portrayed the death of that Lamb of God (the sun setting in the heavenly sign of the Ram [Aries] in order that the human soul [the moon] might arise to life)! What DESIGN, what a PATTERN, what beauty and majesty! And what a "faith-builder." And there was the answer to my prayers as to what to share in an article worthy to encourage others as they ponder the entrance into a new millennium.

The Lord was showing me His greatness through His "unchangeableness" – His unchangeable patterns and design built into and manifest throughout His entire Creation. By these unchangeable patterns we can know Him, experience Him and build a sure foundation of *faith* in Him as He has revealed Himself in His Word, and in His Creation – "*I am the Lord, I change not*" (*Mal. 3:6*). Even when doubts assail us, we can look to His Design and be strengthened if we will but believe that He is the Great Designer – the One Who never changes!

Therefore, I believe the Lord wanted me to focus my article on the important patterns by which He will continue to manifest Himself and unveil His end-time strategy, for bringing an end to the "kingdoms of this world" and inaugurating His Millennial Kingdom of "Peace and Righteousness."

He will not change! Yet mankind has been slow to discern that *that is the key* to understanding His Plan of the Ages. The Apostle Paul stated, as already quoted at the beginning of this article, that the Jews failed to see that if their minds weren't so blinded in reading the Old Testament, they could see to the end (Jesus Christ) of that which is abolished. In other words, even without the New Testament, anyone should be able to see the Patterns in the Old Testament which would reveal the Plan of God, fulfilled in Jesus Christ, which abol-

ished their legalistic observances of the Old Testament Law of Moses.

*“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: but their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the Old Testament; which vail is done away in Christ.”*

*II Corinthians 3:12-14*

It has been the way of God since His forming of man, to reveal such portions of Truth as man could use for his spiritual advancement. Other equally important Truths remained hidden from man’s perspective until such time as it was considered important for him to understand.

*“For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little....”*

*Isaiah 28:10*

In such a way has God always manifested His Spirit, sharing portions of meat due for a particular time or season.

*“And He said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power.”*

*Acts 1:7*

But some of the Truths retained were prefigured by types, rites and ordinances – in other words, Patterns and the Design within His manifest Creation. With the advent of Christianity now almost 2,000 years ago, much of the hidden was unveiled, yet not all. Even the Apostle Paul freely confessed that he only “knew in part” and “saw through a glass darkly” (*I Cor. 13:12*). Yet much of the church maintains that *they* have received *the fullness of the light* – that there is nothing more to look for. But, *THAT* for which we neither look or pray is usually slow in coming into full view....

Yet – “God changes not.” IF so, and I fully believes that, then the tactics He employed in the days of the Patriarchs and Moses *remain still* the basis (*Design*) of His conduct for the now and the future. In other words, He reveals portions of Truth “here a little and there a little” as and when it is deemed expedient for man to receive it. Therefore, with the expectation of His Second Advent and the coming of a “new age” should we not believe that He will be revealing *added* portions of Holy Truth? In eagerness must we *reach out* for it! Therefore, I have sought to include articles in this booklet which focus attention on *Patterns* which are important as we look for the conclusion of this age and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

The Lord will not deviate from His Master Plan – the Design upon which He has built His entire Creation and its history through the ages. His First Advent was foretold and built into the Design “*from the foundation of the world*” (Rev. 13:8) – and that was fulfilled. His Second Advent was also foretold and built into the Master Pattern or Design. *It will happen – it will be fulfilled!* You can count on it! “God changes not”!

Let me here stress my previous comments by again sharing an article I wrote years ago. . . .

*“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”*

*Hebrews 13:8*

The fact that many Christians either do not believe that fully, or have failed to consider the magnitude of that concept, amazes me. As a result of not fully believing those statements, and others related thereto, there are many Christians who relegate the Old Testament to obscurity – other than just a record giving us historical information about Biblical times. Still others, unbelievers for the most part, would confine the Scriptures, particularly the Old Testament, to the accounts and legend of the old ‘tribal God of the Jews.’

Stop to think of that concept again. *“I am the Lord, I change not”... “Jesus Christ, the same Yesterday, and TODAY and FOR*

**EVER”!** Therein is implied and boldly STATED that even though we may think that the things recorded in the Old Testament are no longer applicable to us, yet God declares that He changes not. This is as I have often said: *the principles of the law are always the same*. The outward dramatization of the Laws of Life may vary (as do the seasons from year to year), but the spiritual truths embodied in those Laws of Life never change! ! This should be such an elementary concept and one that all Christians should appreciate and fully accept. But, alas, that just isn't the case.

You will hear many people say that you cannot apply the things of the Old Testament in understanding the things brought out in the New Testament, and so on. Some seem to be saying that Jesus, the God of the New Testament, cannot be compared to the ‘God of the Old Testament’. Surely, some of you have encountered this implication. It's as if God somehow changed and became more loving, that He ‘grew up’ or matured, or that He repented of the way He was back ‘in the Old Testament times’! What colossal error!

God knew what He was doing when He enshrined His Laws of Life in the ordinances given through Moses and the Prophets for the Israel nation. He knew that those people, and mankind as a whole, were then much too ignorant to appreciate the full and unveiled truth and its spirit. So He gave them the husks, but based and founded squarely in the reality of the TRUTHS found throughout His universe. Such principles of Life shall never change. *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away.”* And there are numerous other passages that reveal the same idea.

God does not change. He has no need to ‘grow up’. He is the great **“I AM.”** To postulate that God had recorded for us 2/3rds of our Bible just to give us historical dates or legends, and that He waited before coming as the “God of love,” etc., is just preposterous! God has had a plan from the beginning, and He has never lost sight of that plan – His Master Plan of Love for man. Therefore, can we have implicit FAITH

in Him and believe that He will always be the same – that which He has promised, He will do!

It is because of that ‘unchangeableness’ nature of God that any true seeker of ‘eternal life’ can, like unto the doubting Thomas, be given to behold the consistency of God and His Word; that it IS one continuous whole. That which God has promised, He has or will fulfill. When the doubter is given to see such ‘patterns’ of truth in God’s Word, along with recorded and observable facts, then can he be given to behold and cry out –

*“My Lord and my God.”*



## Chapter 2

# Elijah on the Mount

An excerpt from *ELIJAH COMES FIRST*

by

LELAND EARLS

There is evidence that an "Elijah ministry" must come forth and "prepare the way" of the Lord in these last days. It is presented to us by symbolic drama. The story is given in all three synoptic Gospels, so we know it is of great importance. I refer to Jesus taking three of His disciples up into a high mountain and being transfigured before them. In *Matthew 17:3* we read,

*"And behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elijah talking with Him."*

Moses was refused entry into the Promised Land by the Lord because of his smiting of the rock in anger (*Num. 20:11-12*), but there on the Mount of Transfiguration we see him IN the Promised Land, talking with Jesus. This speaks of the end-time of this age, when God is going to lead His people into the FULLNESS of their spiritual inheritance. Though the church has failed many times through "striking the rock"

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(Jesus) in its unbelief, waywardness and apostasy, we are yet to see the church in the "spiritual mount" of the promised blessing and power and victory.

Since Elijah was there with Moses and Jesus, he pictures the end-time ministry and move of the Spirit of God which is PREPARING the church for her destined hour of full glory. The three disciples (only one fourth of the chosen twelve) who went up into the mount with Jesus, portray the fact that only a PORTION of the church will be willing "to ascend" into that higher spiritual realm which the Lord has prepared for His people in this end time.

## TIME ELEMENT

I want to present two evidences from the Mount of Transfiguration story to show that it portrays events which are to take place in this very end time in which we are living.

First, in *Matthew 17:1*, we read that it was "after six days" that Jesus took Peter, James and John up into the high mountain. Six days after what? Reading the *16th chapter* of *Matthew*, we see that the event from which the transfiguration is dated, is the Lord's first mention of His sufferings. In other words, six days after He tells them that He is going to be killed at Jerusalem, He takes them up into the Mount.

In *II Peter 3:8* we read that according to God's reckoning of time, one day is a thousand years; thus the six days represent six thousand years. However, we are not to reckon the 6,000 years from the time that Jesus was historically crucified, but from the time that He was crucified in the foreordained plan and purpose of God, for that was when God reckoned it to be done. We need, then, to ask the question, WHEN was Jesus thus crucified?

According to *Revelation 13:8*, Jesus was "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." The Greek word translated "foundation" here is *katabole*, which means "casting down." It is NOT the word usually used to denote the foundation of a



house or building: that word is *themelios*, as used in **Luke 6:48-49, 14:29, I Corinthians 3:10-11**, etc. I point this out because I believe *katabole* (used in **Rev. 13:8**) should not be translated "foundation," but rather "casting down" or "fall." WHEN was the sacrifice for sin NEEDED? When Adam FELL, and was "cast down" from his pristine perfection and unity with God, and all creation fell with him. Thus **Revelation 13:8** should read that Jesus was the Lamb of God slain FROM the CASTING DOWN or FALL of the world." *Katabole* (and the verb from *kataballo*) is incorrectly translated "foundation" in a number of New Testament passages, such as **Matthew 13:35; Luke 11:50; Ephesians 1:4**; etc., but in **I Corinthians 4:9** and **Revelation 12:10** we have the correct rendering, "cast down."

## FOREORDAINED BEFORE

In **I Peter 1:20** we read that Jesus was "foreordained BEFORE the foundation of the world." The word "foundation" here is again from the Greek word *katabole* (casting down). In the foreordained plan and purpose of God, Jesus was chosen to become the sacrificial Lamb slain for sin BEFORE Adam and Eve fell and the "casting down" of the world because sin occurred; but He was actually "slain" in the purpose of God FROM the time of that fall, for that was when the sacrifice was needed. God Himself symbolically dramatized this truth by killing some animals and clothing Adam and Eve with the skins (**Gen. 3:21**). These animals slain at the time of the fall were the first to shed their blood for man's atonement, beginning the long succession of animal sacrifices to typify the eventual sacrifice of Jesus Christ Himself as the "Lamb of God."

## PASSOVER PATTERN

The pattern for the slaying of the Lamb of God was set in the rites that were given to Moses when the Passover was first instituted in the land of Egypt. God told the people to "take"

a lamb for each family on the 10th day of the first month, and then “keep” it until the 14th day of the month, when it was to be killed in the evening. Thus the Lamb was “marked out” for death (“slain” in the purpose of God) on the 10th day, but not actually killed until the 14th day, being kept for 4 days. As a day is with the Lord as a thousand years, we see how this portrays the fact that Jesus (although “slain” in the purpose of God from the time of Adam’s fall), was kept in the heavenlies for 4,000 years before coming to the earth to actually die.

## KNOWING THE TIME

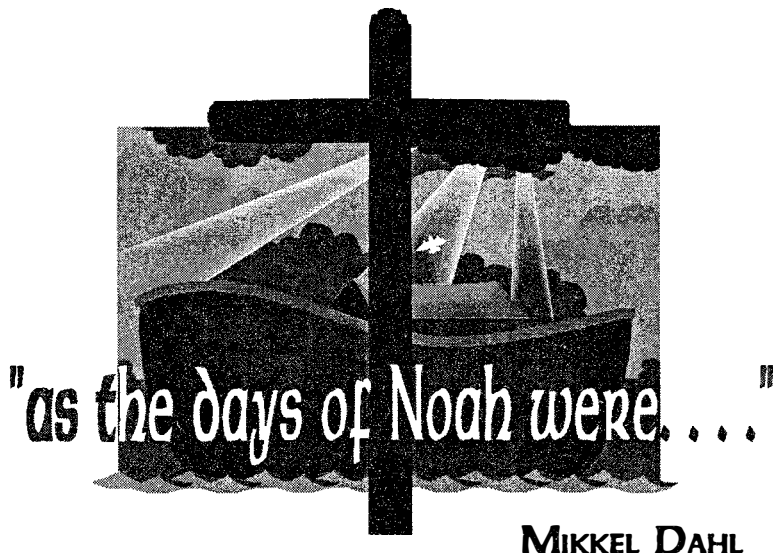
Based on the above pattern, we know that the time previous to the cross of Christ was 4,000 years, and that leaves 2,000 years on this side of the Cross in order to “fill out” man’s “work week” of 6 days (6,000 years) before the “day of the Lord,” the 7th day, begins. Time can be figured by either lunar (354+ days per year), or prophetic (360 days per year) or solar (365+ days per year calendars): 2,000 years of lunar time ran out in the year 1941; 2,000 years of prophetic time ran out in 1972; and 2,000 years of solar time has also run out. Which makes us realize that NOW we are in the closing years of the 6th 1,000 year “day,” and in the DAWNING of the 7th, which will be the “Sabbath” of God’s REST: the 1,000 year Millennium.

## ANOTHER EVIDENCE

The above shows that now is the time for that which is portrayed by the Mount of Transfiguration drama to take place. But we need to take a look at a second evidence. The 6 days of *Matthew 17:1* equate to exactly 144 hours. Does not that number speak to us? Multiply 144 by 1,000 (the number of Christ in His High Priestly ministry: being the number of the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle –  $10 \times 10 \times 10 = 1,000$ ) and we get 144,000 – the number of the Firstfruits of *Revelation 14:1*. These “firstfruits” are seen standing WITH the Lord

on Mount Zion, BEFORE the main harvest of *Revelation 14:15*. Thus after 6 days, or 6,000 years from Adam's fall, shall 144,000 be READY to be taken by Jesus into the "high mountain" of His Kingdom, and enter into the powers of the "glorified life." Whether 144,000 is to be taken as an exact number, or merely symbolic of a larger firstfruits company, makes little difference. The truth is the same: that a "remnant" of God's people are now being prepared to "come up HIGHER" — as did Moses (*Ex. 24:18*), while the people stayed at the foot of the mountain. Ascending the mount with Jesus, as did Peter, James and John, symbolizes both that "higher" spiritual place or realm which the Lord is NOW leading us into: to walk in His ways and be conformed to His image, and also the coming literal entering into His Heavenly Kingdom through the translation of the physical body into a glorified body like unto His (*Phil. 3:21*). Hallelujah! Elijah is here! — "talking with Jesus" in the spiritual mount, and calling a people to ascend into their spiritual inheritance. □

## Chapter 3



**I** believe it is commonly understood in a great many churches that Noah with his Ark, preserving life, was a type of PRESERVATION ('salvation') through Jesus Christ our Lord. But I personally have never heard or seen their setting forth any concrete evidence. I have set forth considerable in the past. Maybe most of that will be repeated for the refreshing of your minds; to which I will add much more – lest you doubt.

Noah's Ark was  $300 \times 50 \times 30 = 450,000$  :- 8 = 56,250. The Ark in the Holiest was  $1.5 \times 1.5 \times 2.5 = 5.625 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 = 5,625$ . THAT was for His chosen nation; but Noah's was that  $\times 10$  – being for the entire world. Forget not that the sacrificial Altar was  $5 \times 5 \times 3 = 75$ ; squared = 5625!!

By which interlocking numerics we cannot evade the conclusion that Noah's Ark portrayed PRESERVATION of world

scope. But jump not to the conclusion that it is for all and sundry NOW. For, into the Ark went but 8 humans: *that* is the number of regeneration. (*"Ye who have followed Me in the regeneration...."*)

The name Noah means REST. Our Lord said, *"Come unto Me and I will give you REST. . . ."*

Look back to the prophetic words of our Redeemer: "...in like manner as it was before the flood. . . ." While at that time God looked upon the world of man, beholding how the thoughts, desires and imagination of his heart was perpetually EVIL: man having so corrupted his ways, that the entire inhabited land was filled with VIOLENCE.

WHAT do we behold today?? "VIOLENCE" to such extent that in our cities, few dare to walk alone at night! "Corruption," greed, evil breaking forth in "violence"!!

WHERE can we go to find domestic felicity as the common norm? But Nay! The 'common norm' is one woman's husband living with another man's wife. Some instances find them divorced; while others do not bother with such 'trifling' matters; while still multitudes of others just mating up for a while, trying out another when tiring of the first. To which we can add pornography, group sex, and Sodomy: now labelled Homosexuality – Gays, Lesbians & Whatnots....

What do YOU label it? Freedom? Broad-mindedness? Or, the "new morality"?

God labels it *"corruption, wickedness and EVIL"* – which He is determined to wipe off the earth's face!!

Are YOU ready for His "Operation Finish"??

**\*\* WHEN? \*\* HOW can we know? \*\***

God has not left us in total darkness – even though the carnal mind of modern man has been blinded by "learning" (so-called), which has led him into materialism, disease, spiritual blindness and depravity.

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Noah's ark floated UP (from the ground); and His word tells us He will take UP to the throne of God a specified number which is to rule this world.

## THE PRESENCE OF THE SON OF MAN

IF, perchance, it is TRUTH you seek, then STOP! CEASE from that mad swirl set up by the erudition of MEN. STAY a moment, and with eyes open and unafraid, let us clearly behold His words:

*"But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the PRESENCE ('parousia') of the Son of man be. . . . And KNEW NOT until the flood came and took them all away. SO shall also the PRESENCE of the Son of man be!"*

*Matthew 24:37-39*

Tell me, were the antediluvians gathered about, watching the procession enter the Ark, and Noah getting sealed in? What stupid thoughts! They 'KNEW NOT' said the Lord: it was A SECRET MANEUVER! The people knew only of a religious 'fanatic's' preaching, and the gigantic hulk of a ship crawling upward. . . but they 'knew not' of Noah's ENTRY! All this bespeaks A SECRET ENTRY and departure to be LIFTED UP through the SOUL-POWER (water) which pours down from above to buoy those with a prepared vehicle to take it!

And what does 'Noah' mean? 'REST'! And God saw that it was "*not good for man to be alone*," so He gave him a companion: a WIFE (that the man might be at REST!) Go through our treatise on *NUMBER SYMBOLISM* (available from Shepherds-field), and see how the number '7' is that of 'marriage' and of 'REST'! Wherefore, 'NOAH' speaks to us of that REST obtained, or entered into by a small and elected body, in and through the mystic MARRIAGE to the 'Lamb of God.'

THESE are the "*firstfruits*." THESE are the 'firstborn' and 'they are MINE' said God. These have the estate of SPIRITUAL VIRGINITY, being wholly consecrated to Christ, (*Rev.*

14:4-5). THIS is Martha (meaning '*lady*') the ELDER of the two sisters unto Lazarus ('*whom God HELPS*'). Jewry – 'whom God helps' – is as DEAD as was Lazarus! Yet the Lord IS COMING to 'rouse him from sleep!' And as He approaches the city – but is STILL ON ITS OUTSIDE – the ELDER sister meets her Lord (SECRETLY – AS IT WERE!) And 'SECRETLY – as it were' she goes to call the younger sister who "*sat still in the house*"! Thereafter, Mary also goes to meet her Lord 'IN THAT PLACE where Martha met Him!' (Yet read this mighty prophetic miracle-drama in its entire detail, set forth in the *REBEKAH'S VEIL* Series; available from Shepherds-field.)

### **PROSPERITY: THE FINAL PLEA**

In *Luke 21* our Lord not only spoke of "*the fig tree*," but of "*all the trees*." But now we refer again to *Matthew 24* which, in other ways, gives much more detail than does *Luke*. As we saw in *Verses 37, 39*, He told us that the "*days of Noah*" were to repeat in the end of this era.

Now just what were the "*days of Noah*"? To some extent, the Lord Himself answered that question: "*eating and drinking*" bespeaks an era of so-called prosperity or plenty. At no previous time in recorded history, has any nation of the world enjoyed such a measure of plenty and prosperity as we have, and as is now being experienced by the nations of Christendom. (The words of our Lord applied only to the Jews and to those who would hear Him through His apostles (see *Jn. 17:20*), which reduces to our nations of Christendom.

We also know by the Biblical account, that not only were there conditions of plenty in the days of Noah, but also that this 'fullness of bread' had so gone to their heads that they had become profligate, sensual, and materialistic to the extent that they had rejected God and His messengers (chiefly Noah in those particular days) so completely that evil was constantly in their heart. Like a monstrous hooded cobra lifting its head into high heaven, so did hideous evil of those days cause God to decide that He would swiftly destroy them

— as the vicious rats they were.

Look out upon Christendom's society of today; can you see any similarity? Perhaps it becomes difficult for us to make a correct comparison, because four and a half millennia have passed since, but when I personally try to assess the picture, I begin to wonder if the evil ante-deluvians may not have been Sunday School kids in contrast to modern Christendom!

*"Marrying and giving in marriage"* has been common ever since the Edenic pair were given the boot by God. Stop to think! Would Jesus mention a thing like that as a "sign" of the end of the age? Hardly! But that spirit in which He made the statement was one to indicate that the mind of man would be preoccupied with sex. Whether or not man recognizes, sex is that magnetic power which draws the male and female together. There may have been the occasional exception, when a man marries for a dishwasher or perhaps a widow with millions.

Look out upon our so-called Christian 'society'. Is it difficult to see if the mind of man is preoccupied with sex? (No, do not bother to answer me, only answer unto yourself. For, the full answer to that question isn't even fit to print.)

Concerning the selfsame signs of the times, we find further detail in *Luke 17:28-29*, wherein our Lord spoke of Lot as being prophetic for the end of this age. Let the reader bear in mind that this nephew of Abraham lived in the city of Sodom, the degeneracy of which stank into high heaven. It was a city of sexual perversion and debauchery so great, mixed with conscienceless crime, that God could not countenance it. So He sent His destroying angels. But bear in mind that the city was not destroyed until Lot and those members of his family who were in his house, had departed the city. Why?

From the casual perspective, we recognize that Lot was looked upon by God as being a righteous man: therefore did He not want Lot to perish with the vilest sinners. But



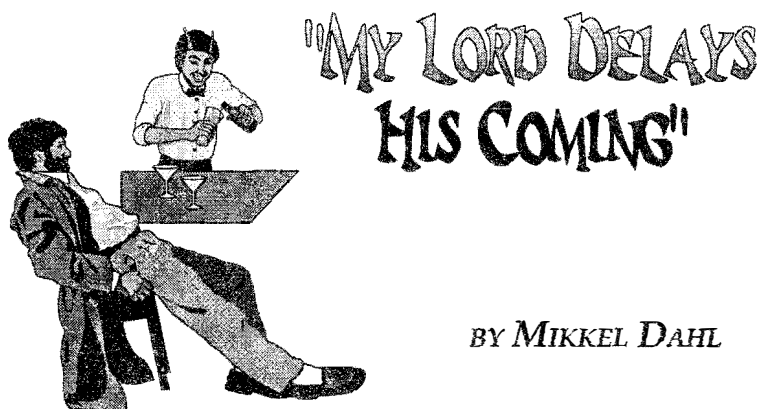
when we probe the matter more deeply – under the searchlight of God's Spirit, we behold much more detail. The very name itself means '*a covering*.' That meaning also fits beautifully into the narrative of that ancient drama: Lot and his family constituted a '*covering*' for the entire city, which prevented God from destroying it until Lot had been taken out.

Ever since the disobedience in the Garden of Eden, man has sought and appropriated a '*covering*' for his naked body. Although this is only a small portion of the greater truth which God wishes to convey through that name of Lot, and his departing of Sodom, it nevertheless constitutes a '*sign*' for us in these days, when viewed even from this casual perspective. It points to mankind's dress, especially that of women, which had been rapidly up-creeping ever since the close of World War I. Several years back, I wrote a brief article about this matter of Lot departing Sodom, in connection with the brevity of woman's garb. Then I pointed out that when it has become quite common for woman to appear before the public eye in the nude, then we would know that the very last grains of sand would be spilling out of God's hour glass. At the time I wrote that, woman's dress was short, but now it has become minified. And although we would not be justified to say that as yet it has become common, still we have during the last decade or two, seen pictures in the daily press and magazines, of persons stark naked, walking in the midst of hundreds of others. Also within the last years, reports have appeared in the press how certain taverns have put on nudist dancers, for the entertainment of beer guzzlers, which dance in the nude – according to press reports – and have wound up in sexual intercourse before the startled eyes of the spectators. Then there have been stage and film productions such as "*Hair*," featuring men and women in the nude. Although I have not personally witnessed any of that, judging by the numerous press reports, one might consider it authentic.

This utter disregard for the older standards of modesty will so increase before the very last days of this age, and become so common that multitudes of girls and women – who

may now be horrified at the very thought – will themselves parade in the nude as others do on swimming beaches, and maybe public parks, possibly on city streets as well. □

## Chapter 4



BY MIKKEL DAHL

*"And the Lord said, 'WHO then, is that faithful and wise steward, whom his Lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?"*

*Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when He cometh shall find so doing....*

*But and IF THAT SERVANT SAY IN HIS HEART, 'MY LORD DELAYETH HIS COMING'; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken;*

*The Lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers."*

**Luke 12:42-43; 45-46**

*(but read verses 35-48; see also Matthew 24:45-51)*

I consider the above passages as being of the utmost importance to all sincere Christians of this day. It applies to myself to the fullest extent; it applies with emphasis to all gospel ministers and teachers who await the Lord's return. And finally it applies to all Christian believers – though with less force.

Let us pause for a moment to weigh, and to discern His words unto a better understanding of what they mean.

'Steward' is a good enough rendering of the Greek *oikonomos* if we fully understand its meaning. It refers to a business manager of a household who budgets, buys, sells and apports. This meaning is further emphasized by '*kairo*' (rendered "*season*"), and by '*sitometrion*' (rendered "*portion of meat*"). 'Season' may be all right but '*kairo*' is more specific, referring to a specific or critical time, while '*sitometrion*' is a precisely measured amount of food (more particularly that which has been prepared from wheat).

In view of the concurrence of these several words, we cannot help but perceive that He was trying to stress A PRECISE TIME and a carefully apportioned food for that time: all of which is in the minutest agreement with my teachings that there was a time-measure precalculated (by God) for our Christian era, and, that near its close the 'steward' would reveal the time (measure) and carefully apportion the food intended for those days!

Yet in that our Lord said, "*But and IF that servant says in his heart, 'My Lord postpones His coming'*", He clearly prophesied that the carefully computed MEASURE of duration should run its course, and still not the Lord arrive! Yes, and even more, that considerable extra time should elapse, and still no Lord be returned. For, a year or so leeway would be allowed even from the commencement by any prudent 'steward' to allow for errors in chronologies.

We are expected to understand from human nature that it would call for *a substantial excess in time* before a 'prudent' steward might become tempted to go on a drunk! Yes, even such substantial over-lapse in time that the steward would be reasoning to himself: I have made very ample allowances and still my Lord has not arrived, so, why not eat, drink and get drunk with the rest of them!

If a noted orchestra leader is engaged to perform at an appointed time and place, heralding the arrival of a Monarch, it isn't likely that he will leave his post because the Monarch is 15' overdue. In fact, he would wait an hour or more in confidence. Assuredly, we would not find him in a nearby tavern getting soused up unless he had waited what he believed to be *an excessive time-allowance*!

## ***DON'T LOSE FAITH***

THAT is the very thought our Lord here strove to convey: that the time *overdue* would reach the excess where even a 'prudent' steward would stand in danger of losing faith!

The one bright spot to our Lord's warning prophecy, is found in the one little word "*if*." Therein is hope that the faithful and prudent steward will not lose faith, but remain at his post apportioning the provisions for his Master's household — unto the end.

We can look back at the Record and find that some of His ancient Prophet-servants found themselves in similar positions. Jonah — for example — became somewhat bitter and wished to die. Faithfully had he proclaimed Nineveh's immediate doom — according to Yahweh's word. Yet the city fell not — in Jonah's day! Other Prophets were also disillusioned because their sayings did not fulfill at the expected time.

There is no doubt in my mind but that a specific 'type' of this very matter is to be found in the Old Testament record, but as yet it has not been revealed to me. In fact, it might

well be Nineveh and Jonah. The latter means 'a dove' – symbol of the Holy Spirit.

## ***PREPARE YOURSELF***

Briefly let us look at another statement: *“And that servant which knew his Lord’s will but prepared not himself...”* (verse 47). Which words tell us clearly that knowing or fully anticipating the time of His return IS NOT SUFFICIENT! There is also a personal preparation to be made in order to be ready for this event of the ages. To different people that ‘preparation’ may somewhat vary. But we are quite justified to link it in general to the statement by the beloved apostle who – speaking of His Lord’s return, said:

*“And every one who has this hope in him, purifieth himself, even as He is pure.”*

*I John 3:3*

In other words, it is not sufficient to sit back and say “Jesus paid it all”! There is something for the individual to DO in matters of thought, word and conduct. We see it recorded how Daniel “prepared” himself through fasting and prayer, and how also our Lord did the same – but to a far greater degree (than Daniel).

Neither should we overlook how our Lord clearly stated that ignorance would not be sufficient excuse for the ignorant. But that those in ignorance doing error would be *“beaten with FEW stripes”* (verse 48).

Which should serve as a sobering declaration unto those of us who know: we have our responsibility towards those who still remain in ignorance. For, in the day that they are *“beaten with few stripes,”* we shall come into the awareness that WE are to blame for not having been more diligently “about our Father’s business.”

The end-time maelstrom unto destruction has a vortex which draws the people into it; it is the “way” and the “trend”

of our age. Now that we have radio, TV, movies, Internet and pulp magazines, the growing generation is perpetually fed on the Devil's brew. And of this I am convinced: it is a 'full time job' for parents these days to so teach, train and indoctrinate their youngsters, that their loved ones will not get sucked into the maelstrom's vortex unto evil.

(A woman once telephoned to ask me what she should do, and she related how her minister's son – about 16 – had come to her house cold and hungry, having been turned out by his father "until he came to his senses and obedience." Should she keep him, or should she turn him out too?

WE cannot judge that father. Yet it is a reasonably safe conclusion that wisely or otherwise, he had tried his best for his son and, assuredly, truly wanted nothing but the best for his son. But in spite of all that, and a minister's home as a further help, Hell's vortex unto evil had drawn the lad into its clutches.)

What are we contributing unto the dynamic of that vortex? Does our word and conduct foster evil? or is it a beacon light which shows up the snares and pitfalls, and a trumpet which ceases not to sound a clear warning? (*"Lift up your voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins" – Isa. 58:1.*)

## **WHY THE POSTPONEMENT?**

WHY has our Lord postponed His return? A last minute change of heart? or something gone amiss? Positively no to both.

Over 19 centuries ago He knew it and warned us; how many thousands of years previous is not for us to say. But this is apparent that an injected measure of grace has been added: a prolonged season of harvest-weather to gather in some extra sheaves; and conversely: a little extra rope – that the Devil may be better hung!

It could be that His servants have been too soundly asleep; it could be that more time is needed because of apathetic servants in the harvestfields. We observe His statement in **Revelation 7:1-4** where an angel is dispatched posthaste to the angels ready to release the 4 winds, crying HOLD that blast *“till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.”* More time was required to seal the 144,000!

It is now years since I was writing on that very subject of the postponement, although I had perceived it some years previously. In *WATCHMAN, WHAT OF THE NIGHT?* it was clearly and emphatically set forth that the time would be prolonged. Yet at that time I did not anticipate that the injected time-measure would be as great as it has already become.

Yet for this we should be grateful: it gives more time for our loved ones to come to understanding and repentance; it gives more time for ourselves to “prepare” – lest we be found unfit and judged to be deserving of the lot with the hypocrites and unbelievers!

THESE are the crucial days to labor, to prepare and to ‘shine’. For, said He,

*“Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord, when He will return from the wedding; that when He cometh and knocketh, they may open unto Him immediately.”*

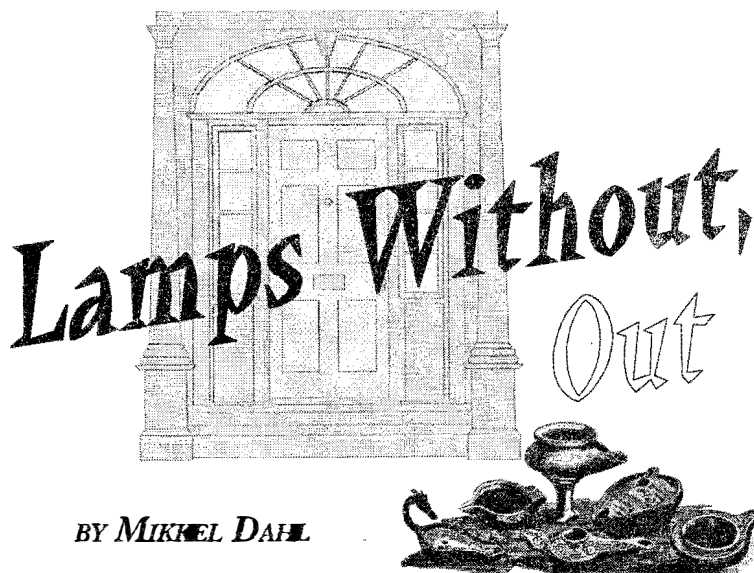
*Luke 12:35-36*

Whereby again we see how He indicated our responsibility. When WE are properly girded about and our lights blazing, then will THEY be prepared to open to Him immediately on His return.

Carefully ponder His words – that they may blaze up within you – for others to get prepared. Yet bid not yourself that our time is not short! □



## Chapter 5



BY MIKKEL DAHL

At first thought from a casual glance at the passage, many might absorb the impression that the oil taken by the five prudent virgins was INTO THEIR LAMPS, or torch-vessels as at the time of our Lord. Yet a more careful study of the early Greek manuscripts seems to unmistakably indicate a separate vessel. The Greek is '*haggeiois*' which means 'vessels (jars, pails, etc.)', but not associated with torches in particular. And these vessels were taken WITH their torches (or oil-lamps).

Casually, perhaps it appears a minor matter. And to the *individual* Christian it may be. But forget not THE WORDS OF OUR LORD ARE TRUE TO THE PATTERN, hence, APPLICABLE EVEN UNTO THE NATIONS!

First,

*"Thy WORD is a lamp ('luchnos' = portable lamp)  
unto my feet...."*

*Psalm 119:105*

By which we see that HIS WORD may be received by THE NATIONS (as by the individual), yet without any special OIL provisioning! And to understand about the OIL for His lamps, we must turn to HIS instructions concerning it. Whereof we read in *Exodus 27:20*:

*"And thou shalt command the children of Israel that they bring thee PURE OIL OLIVE BEATEN FOR THE LIGHT to cause the lamp to burn always."*

Of this selfsame 'OIL' did *Zechariah* see as recorded in 4:2-3, 11-12, and also by the Revelator in 11:3-4. Yet a study of the ancient Greek is here helpful. For, the Greek 'elaiai' rendered 'olive trees,' is not necessarily the olive TREE, but is also used for the olive FRUIT. Bear then in mind that the Christ said to His disciples: *"I AM the vine, YE ARE THE BRANCHES"* (Jn. 15:5). By the same figure we must conclude that the Christ is THE TREE while those IN HIM are the branches, twigs and tendrils.... Thus considering *Zechariah 4*, we get UNDERSTANDING from the angel's reply. The Prophet saw the massive olive-FRUIT on the right hand and also on the left. And he questioned the angel as to the identity of the BRANCHES channeling the OIL.

The "oil *BEATEN for the light*" we read about later in *Mark 15:15*, *Luke 23:16* and *John 19:1*, where the ANOINTED ONE was well 'beaten.' That Roman scourging some did not survive! THUS was prepared for our OIL the true olive-fruit. The TREE yields the oil, the branches channel it to the fruit.

Now we look to the nations: ALL of so-called Christendom have received THE WORD of God (as a lamp unto their feet), and certain other nations have also a portion of His WORD. Yet that does not in itself constitute the OIL. The LIGHT of His WORD has Christendom received (in a measure). Yet many nations thereof lack the OIL! Even as the

foolish virgins took no oil in separate vessels! CLEARLY did the Christ say that **"YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN"** (*Jn. 3:7*). Even more literally: "Ye must be GENERATED anew." All 'generation' (I believe) proceeds from A SEED. To which attested the foundation-Apostle that we must be generated anew – of INCORRUPTIBLE SEED (*I Pet. 1:23*). Again, *seed* is a highly OILY substance. . . .

Herein lies the seeming TRAGEDY in the midst of Christendom that NATIONS (and individuals) have received the light of His WORD, but have taken no OIL into the separate vessel (the human HEART). The OIL is from ABOUT THE SEED: the seed which makes possible the 'GENERATION ANEW.' The OIL of this SEED-berry is that which makes possible the blazing TORCH to light the path at MIDNIGHT!

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### ***DO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AND SACRAMENT CONSTITUTE SALVATION?***

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Let us first look at the nations: DARE WE BE REALISTIC? Look at the countries under the headship of the Greek Orthodox church. As NATIONS, were they ever GENERATED ANEW? Look at Russia, and her former satellites: have they become "NEW creatures in Christ?" Undoubtedly, many individual Christians of that faith may rank among the highest, yet as NATIONS they have slid back to a form of barbarism! With them as with their Roman sister, CHURCH MEMBERSHIP and SACRAMENTS constitute their 'salvation', while their 'salvation' includes the 'new birth' as well as the Spirit Baptism! With them – even as with the former Soviet STATE (which took preeminence over the man), the CHURCH is everything: the organized church – they are taught – is God's instrument on earth THROUGH WHICH THE VISA TO HEAVEN COMES. What bundle of abomination is under the skin, or what number of devils live within the human heart is not important, SO LONG AS THE INDIVIDUAL HAS JOINED THE CHURCH AND REGULARLY

PARTAKES OF THE SACRAMENTS!! While under this baleful teaching the Spirit-Baptism was unknown and the born-again experience seldom found!

In the Roman Catholic countries the obtaining situation is virtually the same. Basically their doctrines are the same except that the Romans have a HIGH PAPA here on earth, with multitudinous lesser 'fathers' quite eager to 'absolve' the sinner from his crimes, as well as to acquit him of minor abominations from time to time! And should not that be quite sufficient, a priesthood is well able to pray the soul out of purgatory!

There again, the *ORGANIZED CHURCH IS SUPREME*, conferring 'salvation' on whomsoever she wills. Whereby we see that the individual's responsibility (except unto the church) is virtually nil. Hence the *GENERATED ANEW* experience (from the OIL-seed) is far from general, while the *LIGHTED OIL* (the Spirit Baptism) is almost nonexistent! Because they rely on MAN for their cleansing – instead of *THE MEDIATOR CHRIST* – together with MAN'S *inventions* – ceremonialism and sacraments – *THEY HAVE NOT ENTERED INTO VIRGINITY!*

Speaking of such, the Spirit terms them *SERVANTS (A.V.)*, or 'bondslaves' – more correctly rendered. Yet our Lord spoke but of *THE 'VIRGINS.'* The *VIRGIN-movement* was launched by St. Francis of Assisi and Peter Waldo, paving the way for Protestantism in the middle of the 16th century (see our booklet entitled *THE TEN PROPHETIC VIRGINS*, available from Shepherdsfield). Although this Virgin *MOVEMENT* emerged from the Roman Church, yet the chief countries under its sway preferred the claptrap of ceremonialism. Hundreds of years before Christ, the Spirit looked into this future day and termed those nations '*LEWD WOMEN.*'

As prophetically demonstrable from His word, the *ERA* of the 5 prudent virgins ran from 1550 A.D. to 1909, *DURING WHICH ERA PROTESTANTISM WAS BORN AND CAME TO POWER, ENFOLDING WITHIN THE NATIONS DES-*

TINED TO 'VIRGINITY'! These TEN agree, and are synonymous with the TEN NATIONS of end-time Spirit-Israel from which are raptured 144,000 "*firstfruits*" (*Rev. 14:1-5*). Observe: "Simeon and Levi are scattered in Israel" (see *Gen. 49:5-7*).• That leaves but TEN tribes with their NATIONAL IDENTITIES manifest.

• (Here, in parenthesis, I shall speak as a man – instead of based in REVELATIONS. Yet I sense that I am NEAR to the TRUTH – if not captured in entirety. Accordingly, we see by His Word that 12,000 are to be called out from Judah. Yet as I see it today – knowing that the 'rapture' is CLOSE, I seriously doubt that many will be raptured from out of world JEWRY. Wherefore I ask: Did Judah lose his Spirit-scepter to earthly Dinah? Judah rejected the Christ, while the Roman Catholic Church entombed Him in ceremonialism, substituting images, 'saints' and an earthly PAPA. But as the ERA of the 5 prudent VIRGINS dawned, **GERMANY GAVE CHRIST BACK TO THE NATIONS!** Did she thereby win the SPIRIT-heritage of Judah? For I am well convinced that *in this eon*, Judah's heritage is PURELY AN EARTHLY ONE. Dinah was bereft of her husband by Simeon-Levi. As a result did Jacob "*scatter them in Israel.*" Zion was bereft of her 'Husband' by Judah (primarily). Did the Lord therefore 'scatter' his spirit-progeny to another nation? As at this moment I see it thus.)

We see the folly and the sin of the "two lewd women" (see *Ezek. 23*). Yet those of us who are Protestants shouldn't lose our spirit-perspective. Considering the greater light we have received, it may be that – as NATIONS – our sin will be construed as even greater! Today 'modernism', or liberty in religious thought is permeating the Protestant nations. The two Catholic churches never taught personal redemption through the REgeneration of the individual's heart. While now multitudes of our Protestant churches have become 'broad-minded', teaching the precepts of men instead of the REgeneration taught by the Christ – in order to 'see' and to 'enter' the Kingdom of Heaven.... Therefore, said the Christ that 5 of the 'virgins' were to be STUPID! (Surely, to POS-

SESS THE TRUTH, yet let it 'go to grass', is sheer stupidity!)

We have but to look at the population of the ten 'virgin' nations to discern between the prudent and the foolish. (They are listed on page 27 of our booklet entitled **WORLD WAR III**, available from Shepherdsfield). Small countries like Wales, Finland, Norway and Denmark, with populations of 3 to 4 million, are destined to contribute 12,000 'firstfruits' apiece, while far greater nations like England and the U.S.A. shall contribute no more! When we consider a small nation with a few million people, have 12,000 Spirit-born 'virgins', in contrast to no more in a nation of fifty times the population, then we commence to understand the staggering folly of such a nation!!

Presumably, the United States can boast a shelter for every 'faith' under the sun, and a land full of 'broad-minded' pulpитеers. Add to this conditions of national prosperity – conceded the greatest in the world – and it all adds up to an empty-headed 'virgin' – as God sees it. No doubt plenty of humans would differ, yet God's judgment is the ULTIMATE! As brought out to you time and again: our countless modern inventions such as radio, TV, movies, cars and 'sports' – ALL contribute to THE FORGETTING OF GOD. Add to this the MEANS to their enjoyment, and it nets us jet speed on the highway to Hell!

Through the Prophet, God spoke of Sodom and Gomorrah, saying their sin was "*fullness of bread and abundance of idleness*" (*Ezek. 16:49*). The fullness of bread today we call 'prosperity'; while the 'idleness' He spoke of we classify under the headings of *recreation, entertainment, holidays and vacations!* And the 'prosperous' nations are beginning to develop national PRIDE....

## A FOREBODING VISION

Perhaps it would not be amiss to recount a vision registered many years ago.

A great ship with latest innovations and powerful motors was steaming full speed on a great lake. On board was playing modern music; people were drinking, dancing, singing. Near a full moon was riding high – the hour must have approached midnight. A northern shoreline was in sight, from which played on the sea TWO MIGHTY SEARCHLIGHTS. Into the glare of these beams drove the ship. But from the vantage point of one on the side, mighty boulders could be seen rising out of the water, dotting its crest far out from land. And looking closer the massive rocks are seen to be almost white with heat. Again we scrutinize the ship to behold with consternation: its sides are ICE instead of steel! And the sea on which it plies is that of HUMAN BLOOD! – the vision fades. . . .

The vision needs scant interpretation. Driving into the glare of mighty searchlights, the people are blinded to the white of the projecting rocks. What portions of the ship will not be splintered will certainly melt on the hot boulders. And the searchlights: the one on the right bespeaks FALSE RELIGION, while the one on the left denotes HUMAN REASON: 'science' and 'philosophy.'

Between these two: *false religion* and *human reason*, this civilization is riding to its doom. And its doom shall come when riding on a sea of human blood.

But back to our 'study.' We find from the ancient Record that after God had accepted the sacrifice, THE FIRE WHICH HE ENGENDERED WAS CLASSED AS 'SACRED FIRE.' After this, the priesthood could not offer "strange fire." By which token we see that the BEATEN oil, dedicated for His LIGHT, *MUST BE* LIT BY THE SACRED FIRE! When 'strange fire' is offered unto Him, DEATH is the result (*Lev. 10:1-2*).

Today, multitudes seek LIFE at the hands of a priesthood which offers ceremonialism instead of the *beaten oil* for the LIGHT. And since no LIGHT results within, it is manifest that no SACRED FIRE has come forth from the Lord — even though the oil is there! (Here I speak not exclusively of the

two churches of ritualism, but also of hosts of Protestant ones which have but empty palaver to offer!) As a result we have stupid virgins on the one hand and carousing 'bondslaves' on the other (*Lk. 12:45*).

## LOOK AGAIN AT THE OIL

Yet let us look again at the OIL which some had, but others failed to take. The implication seems to be that even the foolish ones did at the outset *have some oil in their lamps*. For, they complained that their lamps "were going out" (or "had gone out"). In either instance, it would seem to indicate some original oil. Yet none extra was on hand!

THAT is another sad situation altogether too common in the life of church-people. The OIL was also used for ANOINTING: it was *a means of SANCTIFICATION*. ...As for the nation, SO FOR THE PERSON.

In the days of the sacred Tabernacle with all its hallowed accoutrements present, ISRAEL WAS DRIVEN OUT *AFTER BECOMING IMMersed IN SIN!* Even the sacred Ark could not save them, nor yet the grandeur of Solomon's Temple!

They had run out of 'oil'; their vessels were empty: **WITHOUT A SANCTIFIED VESSEL THERE COULD BE NO SACRED FIRE THEREIN; WITHOUT THE FIRE THERE IS NO LIGHT.** . . . And permit yourself to be reminded: As God deals with the nation, so does He unto the individual!

– *"But the WISE took oil in their vessels with their lamps!"*

ALL of which things bespeak this serious fact: LIVING A HOLY LIFE IS A MUST unto those who aim for Heaven's portals. It is even A MUST unto those who desire to continue IN HIS BLESSINGS HERE AND NOW (remaining in the holy land).

Understandably, it is simpler to "do penance,;" or to sit back and listen to an oration on the magnitude of God's LOVE; yet neither of these fill the bill – IF the Holy Portals



you would see. **YOU MUST HAVE OIL IN YOUR VESSEL WITH YOUR LAMP** – that it may light up under His fire.

The depth of darkness increases; the hour of midnight is near at hand. . . . Here and there we behold the virgins drowsing, while 'bondslaves' feast and get drunken. For, say they, we must first implement His Kingdom on earth, **THEN** will He come. . . . Yet in hushed silence **HEAR** His words:

**THE LORD WILL COME IN A DAY HE IS NOT EXPECTED, AND IN AN HOUR THEY DO NOT KNOW (of it), AND WILL CUT HIM IN SUNDER AND APPOINT HIM HIS PORTION WITH THE UNBELIEVERS! 'THEN' shall the Kingdom of Heaven become likened unto 10 virgins – of which the unsanctified one shall be left behind, and THERE SHALL BE WEEPING AND GNASHING OF TEETH (see Matt. 24:48-25:1).**

Cannot OIL shed a warmth from its fire? Cannot OIL reduce the friction for easy passage? Cannot OIL shed a light for the stumbling wayfarer: cannot OIL raise a BEACON in distant Zion for the stranger's orientation? Then **APPLY** these questions to yourself: Have **YOU** an oil-fire within which radiates a **WARMTH** unto others, drawing them into its comfort? Have **YOU** that OIL in your vessel which takes the friction out of life's pathway? Have **YOU** that Spirit-light of His OIL which illumines your way and keeps you from stumbling?

Does the combined light of your own and of those with whom you have spiritual fellowship, constitute A BEACON which guides a stranger rejoicing to your door? ...Is not the OIL the richest, prized possession of your inner life: a treasure-substance which causes your heart to rejoice in its **SURE POSSESSION**? Or have you but 'hopes' and wishes; doubts and uncertainty? Is all this but 'words' to you? Or does your heart respond with **JOY** – *knowing* full well these 'signs' are veritable **FACTS** in your life? **IF** not, you had better set to in earnest to secure the OIL for the 'vessel.'

Remember: the 'light' which His Word yields, is for the

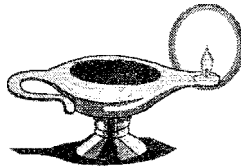
head (eyes), while the OIL is for the HEART: that 'vessel' which channels it forth to whatever 'lamp' or 'appliance' needs it!

Apropos thereto are the rejoicings of the Psalmist as he strummed his harp and sang:

*"Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord. Blessed are they that keep His testimonies, and that seek Him with the whole heart. They also do no iniquity: **THEY WALK IN HIS WAYS.**"*

*Psalm 119:1-3*

May  
YOUR 'oil'  
be in  
rich supply!



## Chapter 6




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### *The Parable of the Ten Virgins*

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by MIKKEL DAHL

**MIKKEL DAHL ANSWERS**

**THIS QUESTION FROM A STUDENT. . . .**

*"In the PARABLE OF THE VIRGINS, do you think Christ would say: 'I do not know you' to the careless ones, IF in fact, they are believers in Him, and eventually going to Heaven?"*

*Answer:* This again comes back to the meaning of words. First we have “virgins.” The foolish were fully as much so as the wise. And their conduct was identical: SLEEPING! We all know the meaning of the word. Scripturally it is used to portray a people who refuse intercourse and contamination with A WORLD STEEPED IN SIN; keeping herself clean and fit for her Lord Who is “married” unto her. Wherefore, we have no right to say that they are not all of the same elected and betrothed body.

Read now *John 7:28* and *8:19*. Casually viewed, it is a contradiction. But in the first instance (“I” or 1st placement is for BODY) He referred to their knowledge of Him as in the physical body; His parentage, etc. In the 2nd instance (2nd placement for SOUL) He declared that they had no knowledge of Him! ...In *John 14:9* the Christ said to Philip: “...*have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip?*” Here again we see where knowledge of and acquaintance with the man Jesus could still leave room for KNOWING Him. We must therefore enter into a deeper understanding of this word “know,” and how God uses it.

Come then with me to the Old Testament and see how God used it when speaking of His elected people.

*“...thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to KNOW what was in thine heart, whether thou would keep His commandments, or no.”*

*Deuteronomy 8:2*

(For supplementary passages, you may read also *8:16, 33:8; Judg. 2:22* and *3:4*; as well as *Ex. 16:4* and *22:20*.)

As we see in the one above quoted, and supported by the references given, God sought to KNOW His people by putting them through numerous TESTS and trials, to see how they would “PROVE” themselves. We might rightly surmise that God knew beforehand what they would do, but He couldn’t very well correct them for that which they had not already done, or failed to do. The “proving” is equally as

much for the individual himself. This PROVING links with knowledge based on factual WORKS. The same thought we see conversely in *Exodus 16:12*. This PROVING links with the number 40.

It isn't enough that a person has good and right intentions: he must PROVE himself that such goodness may become an IN-BUILT reality. It isn't enough that a Christian believer be cleansed and Baptized with His Spirit Fire; He must PROVE the virtue of this, and demonstrate both to himself and God what he will DO with this great blessing.

As brought out in my booklet on the 10 Virgins, the oil in the lamp is the Holy Spirit received at Spirit Baptism. And the 5 foolish ones went immediately to secure for themselves. They succeeded! And immediately clamored to be LET IN. But no time has elapsed. No TESTS have been endured. God requires that they be PROVED – that He may “know them.” Wherefore, they too must take their lot “with the unbeliever” that He may KNOW them.... At the end of the Tribulation, and on the 1st of Tishri, they will then be PROVEN, wherefore they shall hear the 1st and 2nd “trump” of God and arise to meet Him.

Beloved, there is no FLAW in the Word of God, but only with man's reading thereof and his “interpretations.” □

## Chapter 7

*"When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations; and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and He shall set the sheep on His right hand, and the goats on the left."*

*Matthew 25:31-33*

*"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me."*

*Matthew 25:40*

# Sheep, Right...



# Goats, Left

by MICKEL DAHL

Let us look for a moment at *verse 40*. Whether or not we use or drop the “*My brethren*” words, I do not consider very important. I find that some of the ancient editors left a notation to the effect that in their opinion, those “two words were doubtful.” That is, doubtful as having been spoken by the Christ.

When we read the entire parable, we see that the King had divided between the sheep and the goats: the former on His right hand, the latter on His left. In *verse 40* He was speaking to the sheep on His right. Therefore, when He referred to “*the least of these*,” He was speaking of them: thus, those two words appear somewhat immaterial.

But when it comes to *verse 45*, where He will be addressing the goats on His left, then I think that the “*my brethren*” might well be in place. For, to my way of thinking, His expression “the least of these” (when speaking to the goats) refers to the sheep on His right, not to the goats on His left. For we must gather from His many words that the goats symbolize a headstrong, self-willed ambitious and selfish people: a group which has rejected the Christ and all He stands for.

Let us look upon the life of the Lord Himself: when those who believed in Him were with Him, and in danger of their lives, He arose and calmed the storm. On two great occasions, and on three, when those who were with Him were weary and hungry, He provided food in abundance. In the days of the Lord Jesus there were many people in prison, and plenty were hungry, but where is there the slightest hint in Scripture that the Lord went to call on someone in prison, or provided food for any of the hungry (who were not His followers)? I dare not say that we should not do good towards the heathen, but the greatest good we can render is to set truth before them. But if that they will not accept, then I think we might address them in the words of the apostle: “...*Work out your own salvation...*!” (*Phil. 2:12*).

## THE CORE OF TRUE LOVE

In the life of most people, the greatest word they know is the personal pronoun "I" and its derivatives. But when we meditate on these words of our Lord, we find a different word implied: **OTHERS**. That word you will find at the core of His new commandment – *John 13:34*:

*"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."*

Again He glorified this word by saying:

*"greater love has no man than this, that one lays down his life for his friends."*

*John 15:13*

In this great land, there are a great many exceptionally fine people: Christians who have grown and taken on a considerable measure of the spirit of Christ. But by and large, what percentage of them manifest that others are on par with themselves? Indeed I believe that when it comes to the really great issues, most of us are quite ready to consider the other person. As for instance, if someone faints on the street or gets run over or whatever the dire circumstance may be, I believe that most of us are eager to spring to attention and do whatever we can. This a part of our Christian heritage.

But, did you notice that "*least*" word that our Lord used? Yes, I know He used it with reference to people – referring to those who are less esteemed, but I keep reminding you that His words have more than one application. So, let us also apply it to the *least* of our ways. That is where we notice it commences to talk.

Perhaps there are several people in the house, or maybe it is an apartment: one occupant comes in at 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning, and slams a door. Does that manifest any consideration for the *other* persons (who should not have their sound sleep disturbed)?



And what of persons in a small room where there is little ventilation, puffing away at cigarettes, or maybe cigars, filling the air with noxious fumes? Wherein does that consider the other person?

In semi-industrial districts, where people both live and work at factories of some kind, there may be shifts coming off and on, near midnight or later. How many of them ever speak in a subdued voice at such hours of the night? Or how many of them give any thought to the type of language they use? In residential districts there may be less occasion for it, but the same polluters, and distributors live there, and manifest their unconcern for others.

Many car drivers are utterly unconcerned as to how they park, and plenty unconcerned as to how they drive: where is their concern for *others*?

Go into a small washroom. Unless the place is big enough to have the frequent attention of a janitor, then as often as not, it may not be fit to come into. Did the one before you have any thought of *others*? (For more on this subject, order our booklet entitled *LITTLE THINGS*, available from Shepherdsfield.)

## PRELUDE TO WAR

*"...Before Him shall be gathered all nations...."* When we look to the originals we realize at once that the word used does not necessarily refer to some specific spot on earth (like Jerusalem), neither to some specific day, neither into the bodily presence of the returned Lord, but rather previously in time. That is, during an indefinite period of time previous to His return.

Look back to the decade of the 30's: that terrific decade of world rocking and disruptive events! Then became manifest unto the world three unclean spirits, coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. (See *Rev. 16:13*.) Benito

Mussolini, Joseph Stalin and Adolph Hitler – that was the order of their emergence: thereby are we shown the classification of their three homelands.

And what was their mission? To go forth unto the heads of the entire world ***“to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”*** Two verses later that battle is specified as being Armageddon. Their croaking led to war in the Far East, also in Spain, and then World War II.

What happened in that decade and as a consequence of the “Great War”? The nations commenced to separate into blocs: there was the “axis” combine. This commenced with Germany and Italy, then Japan; after that the pact between Hitler and Stalin.

Since that era the coalitions have taken definite form, although as not yet completed.

This the gathering “before” Him: the sheep nations on His right hand and the goat nations on His left. The sheep follow the leader – even into death. Christendom follows Christ – even though that be unto death. The goats are independent: although they group, they will seek out spots for themselves. That is what we have beheld during the last decades. This have we witnessed, and since we see the groupings approach completion, should we not realize that His glorious return now draws near to hand?

Look forward instead of back: look up for His glory rather than down into a manger or down into an empty tomb. And when this hope and conviction lives in you, then will you too ‘purify yourself even as He is pure’ (see *1 Jn. 3:3*).

It is high time we live for His joyous and awesome return, instead of “celebrating” His birth! Commemorate a day unto Him, but never “celebrate” it. Then live for that most fantastic of all days when the very hosts of Heaven shall come to earth. Then shall there be “one King over all the earth.”

Does it not seem almost odd that even in this day those

two groups are known by the selfsame two words: the right and the left? Then within the right side nations are numerous individuals strongly left. This to the end that our desolation may become more complete, for we have sinned against the Lord – abominably.

Have you noticed in *verse 34* how He tells those on the right to enter into the kingdom prepared for them “*from the foundation of the world*”? The Lord is then on earth speaking to and of people on earth and therefore an earthly kingdom. It is even the same inheritance as promised in *Matthew 5:5*, even the selfsame inheritance as *Psalms 37:9, 11*. Oddly enough, there is nothing about pie in the sky. . . .

### WHOM GOD HAS BLESSED. . .

Did you carefully observe how according to *verse 34* our Lord will say “*Come, ye blessed of My Father...*”?

In a purely spiritual sense, it is not for man to judge who the Father has blessed (with reference to matters of spirit). But in a material way, what the eyes behold, the hands feel and the mouth tastes: it becomes exceedingly simple to behold those whom God has “blessed.” Do not confine your perspective to this particular year, but go back through the decades and the centuries – even back to the days of our Lord. That nation of His chosen people rejected Him: suddenly they went into dispersion and were no more (until the year of 1948 A.D.). Then went His messengers unto the mistress of the world: Rome accepted the Savior of the world and consequently her progress became phenomenal (in that age). But ego approached the noonday while avarice sought a harvest: the “Holy Roman Empire” went down. . . .

Then dawned the day of the Reformation: Germany was its homeland. Since that day more than 4 centuries ago, is there any land which equalled Germany in science, in chemistry, and in medicine? Such scientific progress as has been achieved by Russia is directly traceable to German genius taken at gunpoint following World War II and shipped into

Russia. Even in the great United States of America some of its great scientific brains, both past and present, have come from Christian-influenced Germany. As for instance, the late Albert Einstein and Werner von Braun.

Among the nations at the time of the great Reformation, Switzerland laboured hand in hand with Luther. Switzerland is small, insignificant, mountainous and hence a poor country; yet she became banker for the entire world, and although the balance of the world has been in two world wars, Switzerland has known no war.

Then did England repudiate the Pope and set up her own church, even though that wasn't much better than a rubber stamp impression of the Roman. Nonetheless, she became the mistress of the world, reigning over the greatest empire ever recorded. Then broke away a small group, landing at Plymouth Rock in order to set up something better than a rubber stamp impression of Rome. They yearned to worship God in full liberty, and were fearful lest they invoke His displeasure. Today the United States of America is credited with having the highest living standard in all nations. And the might of her power is feared by all.

We can even look at the smallest of Christian nations – such as the Scandinavian peninsula. Those too are small lands, mountainous and poor, yet the industry and blessedness of its people have placed them close to the top of the list of leading nations.

Look then to the lands which know not Christ: India, China, Japan, Egypt and a few other small lands. Their poverty and desolations have been abysmal. Japan has become progressive, having awakened and become imitators of western Christendom. But go to India and China, to Egypt, the Arabs and to Persia: lands with immensely older history than our own (western Christendom), and what is the comparison? It becomes even an insult unto the lowliest in our lands to become compared unto such! Who have been the “blessed of My Father”? Blind and dumb indeed are those who fail to

discern the “blessed of the Father.”

WHO, when and where have been the men worthy of historical mention (since the advent of Christ), who have not come out of Christendom? A number of Jews, yes: but even such have been cradled in Christendom, and nurtured in Christian culture. So far as I know, only an odd few of non-Christian faith and birth are worthy of note. Perhaps principal among such was the Indian Mahatma: Mohandas Gandhi, credited with being the architect of India's freedom through non-violence. But what of his education and nurture? The British were in control at the time of his birth (of Brahmin caste), so, he was educated in English and shipped off to Britain for its culture and higher education.

His mantle was picked up by Jawaharlal Nehru – disciple of Ghandi. Although he could not fill the shoes of the Mahatma, he was conceded to be a great leader – who has an honorable place in history. But what of his background? Given even more intense British education and culture than his predecessor! And Nehru's daughter (Indira), former Prime Minister of India, was again the product of British education and Christian culture.

Going back further, who among them ever became known outside the village of birth? Even their much touted Buddha succeeded only to put his people into a deeper coma. They still have their “holy cows,” and almost yearly die off like rats because of famines with which they are too regressive to cope.

China? Among the oldest within civilization, but some still count by means of beads on wire....

*[It is realized that some could contend that all of these examples could be contradicted by individuals or periods in the history of such countries or cultures. Yet if closely examined and compared to the impact in our modern civilization, these statements stand without refutation. – Ed.]*

Look to the land of the Arabs and the Mohammedan faith: what is there? Only that over which to lament, aside from

that which Christian culture and science has brought in.

Some might wish to reply: Karl Marx (the Jew) rivalled in depth of thought all his contemporaries. IF *that* one believes, I would only reply: born in the Christian land of Protestant Germany, and baptized into the Christian faith while young. But in more mature years he, like his fathers of old, rejected the Christian faith. They went into captivity and dispersion, while his followers are still in the shackles of Lucifer, servants of the devil and "scattered" throughout the world!

'Twas the Son of God Who came to set man FREE: not only freedom from sin in service to Lucifer, but full freedom for man implies mastery of the elements and forces of nature. That meteoring progress to master all forces and problems (such as space travel) has only been manifest in Christian lands, and by men of Christian culture!

Who has ever spoken with the prognostic spirit of Jesus of Nazareth, even of the Son of God? His words have changed the course of history, and His LIFE given spirit to the previously dead. Such have meteored forward as an undeniable testimony unto the truth and reality of the words and claims of Jesus of Nazareth (the very Son of God). While those nations who once accepted the Christ but have absconded (through government), have become true to the words of the inspired apostle who, speaking of them, said that they would be like unto the washed swine which once more turns to wallow in the mire. □

## Chapter 8

***"A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. . . And he called his ten servants and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them: Trade' (=with great business diligence herein apply yourselves) 'till I come'. . . But his citizens hated him and sent an embassy after him saying: 'We will not have this (one) to rule over us.' . . . And it came to pass on his coming back (having received the kingdom), that he commanded: ' . . . but those mine enemies which would not that I should reign over them, BRING HITHER AND SLAY BEFORE ME!"***

***Luke 19:12-15, 27***



# DILIGENT TRADING

**BY MIKKEL DAHL**

**H**ere, it is not my intention to deal with the "Parable of the Pounds" which I have already elucidated in the brochure by that name. But rather to place emphasis on selected portions to see how it applies both to individuals and nations of today. . . . As should be observed above, I have deviated slightly from the A.V. in an instance or two.

'Trade' is a preferable word to 'occupy' for the Greek *PRAGMATEUSASTHE*, yet does not carry its full connota-

tion. THAT I added in parenthesis. Then the Greek *'PRESBEIAN'* is an 'embassy', or a delegation of ambassadors, rather than a 'message' as found in the A.V. (The New Standard or Revised Version renders the two above as 'Trade' and 'Embassy', but I see where they have introduced an utterly foreign thought in *verse 12* where they say he went to receive KINGLY POWER.)

First, let us look at THE nation and the NATIONS. Of a certain element within them (at least), He speaks of as His *enemies*. They would not that He should reign over them.

We also know that our Lord Jesus Christ came out of the tribe of Judah, and spoke especially unto Jewry of His day. We know also that the rulers of His people rejected Him, and schemed to do a way with Him for all time. To THAT end did they nail Him to the Cross on Calvary. And that no trickery should deceive the people, A VERY SPECIAL AND CAPABLE GUARD WAS SET UP TO WATCH THE TOMB NIGHT AND DAY. . . . But such guardians of the tomb could have no power against the Son of Heaven Who ROSE UP and went into that "far land for TO RECEIVE FOR HIMSELF A KINGDOM AND RETURN!"

But humans; yes even nations MAY CHANGE THEIR MIND. Unfortunately (for them), they failed to change their mind even after they beheld their abysmal error. Wherefore, that nation continued to be His enemies, and sent after Him delegated ambassadors to assure Him there had been no change of heart: that they refused to honor His wishes, nor would they have anything to do with Him or His promised 'reign'.

First and primarily, "His *enemies*" referred to the Jewish nation of His time; while the ambassadors sent later indicate that there was no repentance on the part of the THEN rulers, neither any acceptance on the part of their successors.... Therein we behold the first phase of PROPHECY by the incarnate Logos. On a different occasion He flung it in their teeth that AFTER they had "lifted up the Son of man," THEN



would they KNOW that He was THAT ONE for Whom all of Israel had waited since Abraham on Mount Moriah had "beheld Him afar off," and Whom Moses and later Prophets boldly declared.

Wherefore (according to man's perspective) we should rightly have supposed that the Jewish nation WOULD HAVE RECEIVED HIM *AFTER THEY WERE LEFT NO ROOM FOR DOUBT*. But our Lord looked on the spirit-screen of TIME and said: AFTER I am gone away, they will delegate ambassadors to tell Me that I AM NOT WANTED! (More of this a little later.)

### *The end of the 'week'*

NOW let us look to the closing scene of TIME (for His chosen nation and this Age of Grace). "HIS citizens HATED Him!" (Well might we ponder WHY....) Now observe: "ON HIS RETURNING. . . ." He did not say: AFTER He had returned. As I have endeavored to make clear in numerous places: His returning or 'coming' is divided into *THREE MAJOR STEPS OR PHASES*:

**1.** HIS entering the earth's upper atmospheric envelope to where He summons the "*Firstfruits*."

**2.** The Firstfruits having become His "*BRIDE*," and having received full instructions for the admonition and guidance of HIS CHILDREN YET BELOW, watch over their wards throughout a  $3\frac{1}{2}$  year period, at the conclusion of which HIS HOLY ONES on earth are also SUMMONED UP TO MEET HIM TOGETHER WITH THOSE WHO HAVE GONE (west) BEFORE. And. . .

**3.** When that vast, innumerable multitude have had the "atonement price" for themselves presented in the Temple in Heaven, *THEN ARE THEY READY TO 'REIGN' WITH THEIR LORD*. Whereupon He DESCENDS with "*His KINGDOM*" through the lowering stratas of the earth-approaches, becoming fully visible to the human eye as the Shekinah Glory

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comes in from the East and descends from above, alighting on the Mount of Olives – with the Glory-cloud of His redeemed mounting up as high as the human eye can see. . . . THEN is “His COMING” completed as His ‘presence’ has fully arrived.

“ON HIS RETURNING. . . .” His enemies were to be brought and slain before Him! . . . Have we not witnessed ever since 1918 that those very people who refuse to have Him “reign over them” “HAVE BEEN “BROUGHT BACK TO PALESTINE”? And now since 1948 we have seen how both Palestine and world conditions have swollen the stream of immigrants into that of a mighty, rushing torrent of refugees. But WHY? The reasons are two: First, there MUST be a people and a NATION there to receive and acclaim Him on His return, saying: “BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD.” Secondly, Jewry MUST be there to be ‘slain before Him’. Wherefore, as to PLACE they must be there. Yet the Greek ‘*emprosthen*’ may equally as well refer to TIME: i.e., BEFORE that moment of His actual arrival in person. That is, they are being gathered in preparation for THE SLAUGHTER! (See the writer’s *THE PARABLE OF THE POUNDS AND TALENTS* – available from Shepherdsfield.)

I mention these momentous matters that the AWESOME WEIGHT of this moment may penetrate the dull fibre of many; that many may more seriously TAKE STOCK OF THE MOMENT – THAT THEY TOO MAY “ENTER INTO THE JOYS OF THEIR LORD.”

### *Christian Government?*

Next we look at the NATIONS, especially those of modern Christendom. First we have the NATO. NOW it seems as if an U.N. “Police Force” has become an established reality. And the U.S. Congress grants to the U.S. President power to commit American Forces to armed conflict – should specific circumstances seem to warrant it. . . .

***“HIS ENEMIES SHALL BE SLAIN BEFORE HIM!”***

Christendom too? *Yes, Christendom also, for, "they would not have Him reign over them"!* Therefore has He prepared 'a body' to be slain – that the vultures may gather together. And being assembled, THE FURY OF HIS JUDGMENT MAY CONSUME THEM ALL IN "OPERATION FINIS"!

WHAT?! Is not Christendom the sweet cream of His Elect? And surely, 'democracy' is HIS implemented form of government for peoples to be ruled in righteousness. Yes, thus dream the gullible and so prattle the parrots (in "the night")! 'Christendom' of today is but "TWO LEWD WOMEN": sisters in debauchery which ply their abominations. While 'democracy' is a sinister system foisted on humankind by the Prince of the Pit – to the end that DEMON *rule* may hold sway in the affairs of man!

Would you not expect a communist government within a Communist State? And a fascist government within a Fascist State? But where can we find a 'Christian' government within Christendom? (Why not look for milk in the mouth of a cobra?) How RARE is the true Christian who ever enters politics! For all true 'Christians' have heard the cry of His Spirit:

***"Depart ye. . . go ye out from thence; touch nothing unclean; go ye out from the midst of her; BE YE CLEAN THAT BEAR THE VESSELS OF THE LORD."***

*Isaiah 52:11*

But in the governments of Christendom we find but the thin veneer of a sham Christianity, reflected by men who acknowledge God: who have heard of Christ, and are in office for what money they can get out of it. THERE we have the 'ambassadors' which will have nothing to do with Christ: THERE we have the blasphemers, the liars and globe-trotters in service to Mammon!

***"The Prince of this world approaches and HAS NOTHING IN ME!"*** – Jesus.

Yet Christendom is entirely in the service of 'the Prince of

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this world'. Where and through whom come the government policies not predicated on SELF (-interest)? *Yet the very core of Christ is FOR OTHERS!*

Is not the "Kingdom of God" SUFFICIENT UNTO ITSELF? Or does God truck with the devil? Similarly, were the nations of Christendom '*CHRISTIAN*' nations, THEY WOULD BE SUFFICIENT UNTO THEMSELVES. THEN we would have no trucking with dregs from out of the Pit. THEN there would be no entanglement with 'unclean' elements; nor would our people be taxed to send billions to the bands of Apollyon that his arsenal may be well built up UNTO OUR OWN DESTRUCTION! (How awesomely marvelous are the works of our 'Christian' governments!)

"BUT THOSE THAT WOULD NOT THAT I SHOULD REIGN OVER THEM: BRING HERE AND SLAY BEFORE ME!" – Wherefore, the frightening and undisputable fact that the leading nations of Christendom are being DRAWN FORTH that their converging forces may blaze forth into Armageddon IS THAT PROOF THAT OUR GOVERNMENTS ARE NOT '*CHRISTIAN*'! For, had we wanted Him to reign over us; He would not have had us called forth unto the slaughter! But our GOVERNMENTS know not Christ. They are sold body and soul to the Prince of this world and HAVE NOTHING IN CHRIST!

***AS IS THE GOVERNMENT: SO SHALL BE THE FORTUNE OF ITS PEOPLE!***

It is high time we wake up to the extremity of our frightful situation. For, He has promised us in all solemnity to NOT RETURN *until* we have left off our trucking with Hell; when we shall be panting for our Savior to set up the GOD-RULE in the affairs of man.

### ***Where are Christian Fathers?***

NOW, let us look for a moment at THE INDIVIDUAL in the midst of Christendom, that we may perceive to what ex-

tent Christ RULES OVER HIM:

Was it not common practice for the father of a family to HEAD his table, and to be the AUTHORITY for the family? But how many 'Christians' will openly enthrone Christ as their HEAD and, acknowledge Him by word and THROUGH CONDUCT as being their ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY? (Yes, ponder that much.)

LET YOUR WORDS BE YES AND NO, FOR, WHATSOEVER IS MORE PROCEEDS FROM THE EVIL (one). THUS spoke the Christ. Does He 'rule over YOU'? Have you trained your foolish tongue to limit itself to ESSENTIALS? Have you taught it to glorify your Redeemer IN ALL OF YOUR CONVERSATION? Or is it your principal engrossment in the WORLD (which "is at enmity with God")? Is your principal conversation centered in undesirable weather; in money, sex and pleasure-madness? How many would cheerfully have their loved ones and pastor sit in on a rebroadcast of their recorded words from morning till night? And how many would gladly turn to God and say: JUDGE ME BY THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH? ("And He said unto him: Out of thine own mouth will I JUDGE THEE, thou wicked servant!")

How much of one day in seven do you spend DRAWING NEARER UNTO GOD? And how much thereof is devoted unto OTHERS, especially those who are sick, or poor and despised; those who are alone and maybe in grief? And do you go to speak to hearts 'bedevilled' by the things of this world – to the end that they might know God through Jesus Christ? Are you up and about, DILIGENTLY DOING BUSINESS with that ONE (of LIFE) which He gave you on His departure, that, on His return He might regain HIS OWN AND WITH ADDED INTEREST? Or maybe your 'Christianity' finds expression into the late hours Saturday night at a hockey rink or a ball game; then half of Sunday in bed, while the balance thereof and late into the night you streak along a highway in wake of the maimed, the dead and the dying?

Answer not unto me but honestly unto yourself and unto

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God: WHOM are you serving: Christ or the Prince of the Pit?! Forget not that he whom you serve is your master, and he 'reigns over you', - hence your past and present lot, building for tomorrow!

Out of the profoundest depths of conviction, borne of a life tremendous in experience and rich in observation, I say:

HE WHOM YOU SERVE *WILL REWARD YOU!* And should that one chance to be the ENEMY who is in temporary charge of this world; THEN ARE YOU DESTINED TO FARE VERY ILL BOTH NOW AND HEREAFTER. For, in truth the OVERLORD shall "slay you" and that in more ways than one!

In "more ways than one" because He Is GRACIOUS. He gives you untold 'chances'. With reckless abandon are you bent on SERVING SELF UNDER LUCIFER'S CHIEFTAINSHIP, with impudent disregard for Him Who bought you at an unspeakable price! So every now and then He lets the whiplash fall, TO THE END THAT YOU MAY BE AWAKENED TO YOUR FOLLY. But should you refuse to TURN (to Him), then has He promised faithfully that you shall be "slain before Him" at His coming (in JUDGMENT).

Look again to the modern usage of radio and TV; to the theaters and sports and a thousand and one inventions by the Devil USED TO MAKE YOU FORGET GOD AND TO IGNORE YOUR SAVIOR, all to the end that you shall be an abject slave to his Satanic Majesty. ALL this leads to heartaches, grief and frustration here and a DOUBLE DEATH in the hereafter.

Yet THIS have I found, that to FULLY HONOR OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, and being up and about DILIGENTLY DOING BUSINESS for Him with that ONE of 'silver' He gave unto each of His 'servants' (as distinguished from the 'citizens'), RAPIDLY LEADS ON "INTO THE JOYS OF THE LORD" with the added assurance that GREATER AND MORE JOYOUS RESPONSIBILITY IS AWAITING. . . .

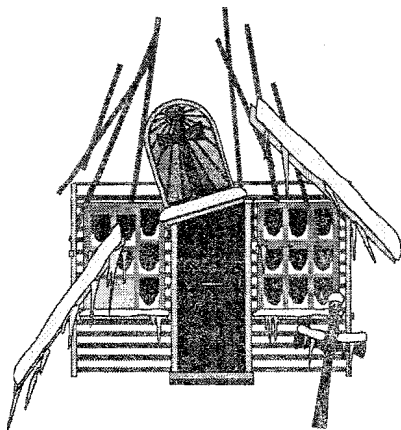
Or perchance you have "tied up" the Lord's silver in A

KERCHIEF – being fearful of trading therewith? Such are they who recognize THE ETHICAL VALUE of His ‘silver’, but retain it all in their head (the napkin): fearful and unwilling to channel it forth in everyday living. Usually, such will also embezzle the monies of the Lord. YET FOR AS LITTLE AS YOUR ~~FAITH~~FULNESS, IN THE HANDLING OF HIS MONIES (the 1/10th which everyone received OF THE TOTAL), did He promise a “well done” compliment and ushering “into the joys of the Lord”! How simpler of attainment could He make it? Could He be more GRACIOUS?... And of this I am also persuaded: HE Who promised is both FAITHFUL AND FULLY ABLE (to fulfill His promises). ◻

## Chapter 9

*"But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up."*

*Matthew 24:43*



## What House Broken Up?

*by Mikkel Dahl*

**N**ow as to the 'signs' of the Lord's 'Parousia'. One track minds among our pro-claimed spiritual illuminati have been unable to grasp His 'coming' as at more than one time, or in more than one fashion! Therefore have 'interpretations' sprung up with reference thereto. Yet none such have we been licensed!

The above quoted verse speaks of "*the thief*" arriving in a 'watch of the night'. THIS we know is by stealth! And that



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this was a reference unto the manner of His own '*parousia*' we see clearly by *verse 50*, where He says that the backslidden 'servant' who enters into worldliness, believing that the Lord's return is distant, shall be overtaken in an hour, unexpectedly, and at a time of which 'he is NOT AWARE!' Here, let us discern His meaning clearly.

First, at a time NOT expected. Secondly, in such a manner that the servant wouldn't even know that it had happened! ('Not aware of.') Here, then, is a bold REdeclaration of the SECRET COMING, or '*parousia*'. THIS is His "*jewels*" of *Malachi 3:17*. THIS is the "*FIRSTFRUITS*" (*Rev. 14:1-5*) which are gathered AHEAD OF TIME, and declared by God through Moses, to be an 'offering unto the Lord.' THESE are the 'called out' ('*ecclesia*') 144,000 which become "*the bride, the Lamb's wife*" (*Rev. 21:9*). THIS are we shown by Martha meeting her Lord outside the city while "*Mary sat still in the house*" (*Jn. 11: 20*). (This is fully elucidated in the *REBEKAH'S VEIL* series, available from Shepherdsfield.) We may be stupid and headstrong, willfully denying the clear meaning of His words, yet we cannot gainsay the clear sequence of EVENTS of a narrative: which were but living TYPES in the hand of God, and 'signs' for us (see *I Cor. 10:11* and *Isa. 8:18*; also *Rev. 14:1-5*).

Further, to hammer home this TRUTH, the Lord proceeds immediately to enlarge thereon, setting the selfsame TRUTH in a different frame that even the stupid and dull of understanding (like myself) should not fail to GRASP THE TRUTH....

Patiently then He goes on to say that IF the 'householder' (WE are "*the household of God*" – *Eph. 2:19*) had been fully acquainted with the designs of the 'hour of the thief,' then would he not have lost out through backsliding, but "*would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.*" Then to preclude all possibility of misunderstanding, through *verses 50-51* He states in words startlingly clear that such an evil servant (backslidden into the things of the world,

WHICH, says James, is "**ENMITY with God**" [Jms. 4:4]), shall be cut off and his portion appointed with the *hypocrites* and *unbelievers*....

Clearer He could not make it that the *unbelievers* and the *hypocrites* are to face and enter the "**Great Tribulation**," and that **WITH THEM** shall also be those who had been 'servants' but who had fallen from their 'first estate' (see *Rev.* 2:4-5; 3:3; also 2:21-22).

And yet again He hammered away at the **TRUTH** by saying that "**ONE shall be taken and the other LEFT**"! □

## Chapter 10

*"Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left."*

*Matthew 24:40-41*



"One taken...

the other left"



An excerpt from

**THE THREE PHASE COMING OF JESUS**

by **LELAND EARLS**

**B**efore dealing with the various phases of the Lord's coming in detail, I want to jump right into what seems to be a difficult Scripture passage, and which has been frequently misinterpreted. I refer to *Matthew 24:37-41*, where it speaks of some being taken and others left. After dealing with this passage, a certain writer that I read recently said: "Lord, we want

to be left!" I hope that by the time you have finished reading this, you will say with me, "Lord, we want to be taken!"

Another end-time writer that I read not too long ago also ridicules the idea that anyone would want to be taken; for, he says, according to this passage *only* the wicked are to be taken. But does it? NOT if we examine carefully and understand the TWO kinds of "taking" the Lord was talking about.

So often the truth is missed because our English translations do not give the distinction between different Greek words that are used. Let me quote the passage under consideration and then I will show you what I mean.

*"For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. WATCH THEREFORE: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."*

*Matthew 24:38-42*

The Greek word translated "*took*" in the first instance, where it speaks of the fact that he "*took them all away*" (in judgment), is an entirely different Greek word from that used in the verses following where He says that "*one shall be taken, and the other left.*" Let me illustrate this by using the numbers and definitions in *STRONG'S EXHAUSTIVE CONCORDANCE* as follows:

*STRONG'S: #142, Greek, AIRO: "to lift; by implication, to take up or away; away with, put away, remove, take."*

This is the Greek word that is used in *Matthew 24:39* where it says that God "*took them* (the wicked) *all away.*" It is the same word used in *Luke 19:26*, where of the "wicked servant" it is said that "*even that which he hath shall be taken away from him.*"

STRONG'S: #3880, Greek, **PARALAMBANO**: "to receive near, i.e. association with oneself (in any familiar or intimate act of relation); by anal. to assume an office; receive, take (unto, with)."

WOW! Does not this word literally SHOUT at us? And this is the word used in **Matthew 24:40-41** where it says that "**one shall be taken, and the other left.**" Here it is not the wicked being taken away in judgment, but rather Christians who are **READY** (this will be discussed later) being taken to be near Jesus in intimate relationship, to be associated with Him in a particular work or ministry, where they will "assume an office" or function in His consummating plan for this age.

Note the following other Scriptures where this Greek word is used.

**Matthew 1:20**: "...fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife."

**Matthew 12:24**: "...and (Joseph) took unto himself his wife."

**Luke 9:28**: "**He** (Jesus) took Peter, John, James, and went..."

**Matthew 26:37**: "...and He (Jesus) took with him Peter."

All indicate a taking or receiving unto a person for an intimate relation and purpose. Hallelujah! Lord, we want to be taken!

## WATCH

Immediately following His statement that some would be taken and others left, Jesus gives the admonition,

**"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."**

**Matthew 24:42**

Now WHY the admonition to "watch" if the Lord is only talking about the wicked being taken away? But if, as we have pointed out, the Lord is warning Christians lest they be left behind when He comes to take *some* to Himself, THEN the admonition to watch makes sense. All we have to do is to continue to read the verses following the admonition (**Matt. 24:43-51**), and the misty fogs of man's confusion will disap-

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pear.

*"But know this, that if the goodman (head) of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore BE YE ALSO READY: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."*

*Matthew 24:43-44*

Thus Jesus is coming to *break* into the *household of the church* to TAKE those who are READY, and leave others behind. The same thought is presented under a different analogy in *Matthew 24:45-51* when the faithful and wise servant who is ready when the Lord comes, is contrasted with the unfaithful and careless servant who is to be "*cut asunder*" (*separated* from those who are ready, by his being left behind), so that his portion (during The Tribulation) will be appointed *with* the hypocrites.

I have been seeking to show how that the whole context of the passage has to be studied to grasp the significance of some being taken and others being left because of READINESS, as well as STRATEGY in dealing with the household of the church.

### **ADDED INSIGHT**

We have already examined the passage in the Gospel of *Matthew* about those being taken and left. However, *Luke's* account gives added insight which needs to be looked at. *Matthew* does not give a complete account; *Luke's* is better. In *Luke 17:34* we read:

*"I tell you, in that night there shall be two in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left."*

Notice, the two are in ONE bed; they are resting in the same place, having one abode in common. Thus they are both Christian believers. Had the Lord wanted to portray the difference between believers and unbelievers, He would have said: "Those in one house shall be taken, whereas those in another house shall be left." Whereas in that Jesus said "*in*

*that NIGHT there shall be two in one bed and one shall be taken,*” etc., it first indicates that it shall be factual night over Jerusalem when the “taking” starts.

Secondly, because the horror and darkness of the Great Tribulation then opens IN FORCE, the general situation in the world will be similar to that of a “night.” Recall that it was at midnight (*Matt. 25:6*) that the cry went forth which caused the wise virgins to bestir themselves that they might meet the approaching bridegroom. Also, it was at midnight (*Ex. 12:29*) that a cry went up out of the land of Egypt because the Lord had taken (by death) the firstborn of the land. As THAT “taking” was a judgment upon Egypt for their hardness in heart, so in a like SIMILITUDE shall a CRY go up from the church as the Lord takes the “Firstborn” (Firstfruits) through translation, as a judgment upon a lukewarm, careless, “sleeping church.”

It is the same as the Lord “breaking into” the household of the church as a thief (*Matt. 24:43-44*) to take His “jewels,” as in *Malachi 3:17*: *“And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in the day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them (from the Great Tribulation) as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.”* Such “thievery” is the PRICE He exacts upon the balance of the church for their lack of readiness. □

## Chapter 12



### *An excerpt from "THE LORD'S DAY"*

*compiled by C. Gordon Wolcott*

**T**he Lord Jesus repeatedly emphasized the necessity of watching for the time of His return. In *Mark 13:33-37* it is written:

*"Be alert and watch, for you do not understand the time when He will come..., in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrowing, or in the morning. Watch, lest He come unexpectedly and find you asleep. And what I say to you, I say to everybody, watch."*

The admonition to watch is intimately linked with references to the night watches as they were then in use under Roman rule. The first watch ("*at even*") was from 6 to 9 p.m.; the second watch ("*midnight*") was from 9 to 12 p.m.; the third watch ("*cockcrowing*") was from 12 to 3 a.m.; and the fourth watch ("*in the morning*") was from 3 to 6 a.m. Although Jesus was emphasizing their inability to comprehend the conditions prevailing at the time of His coming, He was also giving a veiled insight into its several phases. A phase of His coming is to be fulfilled in each of the four watches.

#### **WATCH #1: "AT EVEN"**

According to Jewish reckoning of time, a new 24 hour day al-



ways began with the setting of the sun, at even, so the new day begins with the setting-in of darkness. However, darkness is always associated with the world, not with Christ and not with ready Christians (*I Thess. 5:5*). In those days, people generally did very little after sunset, going to bed and to sleep and then rising early in the morning with the rising of the sun. But in *I Thessalonians 5:6* Paul wrote,

***"Let us not sleep as others do (the world), but let us watch."***

The seeming enigma is resolved by realizing the difference between ready Christians and the world. Ready Christians are enlightened and prepared. They are children of light, of the day, and not of darkness or the night. When Jesus spoke of His coming first *"at even,"* He spoke to that end-time period when the new day is beginning. To the world it means the setting in of rapidly increasing darkness, but to those who are watching, the 1st watch of the new day means a rapid increase of spiritual light and truth. It is His coming in the further revelation of Himself to give light (understanding) to His intimate followers.

But it is a new day only to those who are watching, to those not sleeping as is the world. We have been witnessing the development of the new day of the Lord, announced by the reestablishment of Israel as a nation. Since the 1st century apostolic days there has been no such an increase in available spiritual light and understanding as in our day. To the very few who are awake and watching, the Spirit of the Lord is speaking,

***"Arise, shine, for your light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you."***

***Isaiah 60:1***

But the next verse shows the contrast between that which is taking place among the watching ones in the first watch, and that which is overtaking the world.

***"For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth and dense darkness the peoples, but the Lord shall arise upon you and His glory shall be seen upon you."***

Thus the Lord is coming in the power of His Spirit to bring light and glory to His people. We are now well beyond the inception period of His approach *"at even,"* the 1st watch of the new day.

## WATCH #2: "AT MIDNIGHT"

Jesus also warned that He would additionally come "at midnight" which concludes the second watch of the night. But we must keep in mind the double significance of the prophetic picture. To most of the world the Day of the Lord is a period of increasing darkness (*Joel 2:1-2; Amos 5:18; Zeph. 1:14-15*). But to God's called out remnant, who are watching and who are not of the night or of the darkness and who are not still asleep, it is a time of increasing spiritual light.

It was at midnight that the great cry was heard, "*Behold, the Bridegroom cometh.*" Then the wise virgins were taken into the marriage, but the foolish virgins were left. To the unprepared, as to the foolish virgins, the Lord comes as a thief (*Rev. 3:3; 16:15*). A thief (to the unprepared) does not announce his coming when he breaks in to take something, and the evidence of his visit is that something is missing. He comes at an hour which such a one does not anticipate (*Lk. 12:40*). He comes to take away His Jewels (*Mal. 3:17*), the 144,000 group, the wise virgins, the redeemed among men who are The Firstfruits unto God and the Lamb (*Rev. 14:4*). These will be translated at the beginning of The Great Tribulation, for they are accounted worthy to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand in the Presence of the Son of man (*Lk. 21:36; Rev. 3:10*).

The Lord said,

*"I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him."*

*Malachi 3:17*

And since they have a ministry to fulfill on earth during The Tribulation, the Lord further says,

*"Then shall you return and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him who serves God and him who does not serve Him."*

*Malachi 3:18*

*"But if the householder had known at what watch the thief was coming, he would have been awake and watching and would not have permitted his house to be broken through."*

*Luke 12:39*

The house is the Church, the household of God (*Eph. 2:19*). The price exacted from the careless household that is not awake, watching and prepared is the breaking or digging through to take the wise virgins. And those who are then prepared go in with Him to the marriage (*Matt. 25:20*). This is in harmony with *Revelation 19:7*,

*"Let us rejoice and exult and give Him glory and honor, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His wife has prepared herself."*

### **WATCH #3: "AT COCKCROWING"**

There is then a further coming of the Lord, at the cockcrowing which ends the third watch, 12 to 3 a.m. It must have been during this watch that Peter denied his Lord (*Mk. 14:30, 66-72*); therefore, the cockcrowing is prophetically connected with Peter's denial. This connection shows that those not taken at the midnight hour and left to go through The Tribulation period, have at some time and in some measure denied their Lord. The Tribulation is used, therefore, to test and prove them that the Lord might know them, that they might be made ready to be called to the marriage supper.

When the Lord comes at the cockcrowing, it is for all who have been made ready during The Tribulation, both the foolish virgins and those who might be called Tribulation saints, those who have come to know the Lord during the Tribulation period, and have had sufficient time to develop from a "blade" to a "full-grain-in-the-ear" Christian (*Mk. 4:2*). As the physical crowing of the cock awakens those who are still sleeping, when Jesus comes at cockcrowing, all who have died in Christ (fully prepared) will be raised. Then, immediately, all the prepared saints (in Christ) who are alive shall be caught up along with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air (*1 Thess. 4:13-17*). The coming of Jesus at the cockcrowing immediately concludes The Tribulation period, for it is *"in those days, after that Tribulation"* that *"He shall send out the angels and will gather together His elect"* (*Mk. 13:24, 27*). On that morning of the Day of Trumpets, just before the seven Bowls of Wrath are poured out on the earth (*Rev. 16*), the elected saints are united with the Lord in the air. Near noontime Jerusalem time, on 1 Tishri, they begin their ascent toward the Temple in Heaven.

The event is also pictured in *Revelation 14:14-16* by one like

the Son of man, having a golden crown upon His head, and in His hand a sharp sickle. With this sickle He reaps the harvest of the earth and gathers the ripened grain into the "granary" of His Heavenly Kingdom. Then will the righteous shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father (*Matt. 13:30, 43*). After their gathering to the Lord, these glorified saints sing a song of victory and deliverance (*Rev. 15:2-4*).

Immediately following the reaping (gathering) of the elect saints, another angel with a sharp sickle is commanded to gather the grape clusters of the vine of the earth, for they are overripe. The angel does so and casts them into the great winepress of the wrath of God (*Rev. 14:17-18*). This winepress action is the result of the seven Bowls of Wrath being poured out on the earth (*Rev. 15:1, 7, 16:1*). It is not until these Bowls of Wrath begin to be poured out on earth that the saints, who have been translated and gathered to Jesus, enter into the Temple in Heaven to share in the marriage supper of the Lamb (*Rev. 15:8*).

At the same time as the saints are participating in the marriage supper of the Lamb in the Temple in Heaven, there is an invitation going out for another supper on earth, a supper of the flesh of all men, free and bond, small and great (*Rev. 19:17-18*). The guests at the supper on earth are the millions of humans who are to be slain in the pouring out of the Bowls of Wrath, and all the birds of the air (aircraft and missiles) will eat their fill of the flesh of the dead.

The Day of Atonement on Tishri 10 brings the greatest of blood baths in the final and major battle, Armageddon. Fighting continues four more days sporadically, fizzling out. But in the Heavens there is rejoicing in being made fully free, no longer hid in Christ from the Father, but finally accepted. The marriage festivities in Heaven come to an end just before the final Bowl of Wrath is poured out on the earth. Then the Lord Jesus will descend to earth to put a stop to man's insanity, followed by the multitudes of saints "*clothed in fine linen, white and clean*" and upon white horses (*Rev. 19:11-14*).

#### ***WATCH #4: IN THE MORNING***

The final phase of the coming of the Lord, as pictured by the four watches (*Mk. 13:35*), is the watch "*in the morning*" – when the Lord Jesus comes with "*ten thousands of His saints*" (*Jude 14*). He

arrives just as the final Bowl is poured out and treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God (*Rev. 19:15*). He is revealed from Heaven in flaming fire to take vengeance on those who willfully do not know God and on those who refuse to obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (*II Thess. 1:7-8*). This is when He comes with power and great glory, being seen by those on earth who have survived the 13½ day nuclear holocaust which rages throughout the period of the seven Bowls of Wrath.

At the sunset opening of Tishri 15, Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords, places His feet on the Mount of Olives. This triggers the greatest earthquake the world has ever known. Beyond that event, another 7,000 years (minimum) follow before another release and glorification of earthbound humans who have by then prepared themselves.

What the inhabitants of the earth will see first "*in the morning*" is the "*sign*" of the Son of man in heaven (*Matt. 24:30*), the "Glory Cloud." It will begin to be seen when the elect are gathered, just before the outpouring of the seven Bowls of Wrath, as a supernatural light appearing in the sky that will cause the "*tribes of the land*" to mourn. Finally, those "tribes" in the land of Palestine will "*see the Son of man coming in the clouds from heaven with power and great glory*" (*Matt. 24:30*). The "clouds" surrounding Him as He appears are the hosts of the redeemed and glorified saints. *Matthew 24:31* does not describe an event following His appearing in power and great glory, but explains the detail that is associated with His coming and gives the meaning of the "clouds" which accompany Him. They are the clouds of the elect previously gathered and who subsequently appear with Him in His manifestation of great glory.

In recapitulation, we are now to be watching for His approach. But before we fully know how to watch, we must understand the different phases of His coming, as portrayed by the Lord, and then watch during each phase (*Mk. 13:35*). By now He has already come "*at even*," the first phase of the night for the world. We are now watching for and participating in a greater revelation of Himself, as He comes in the power of His Spirit to give light and understanding of His end-time purposes to His Church. He is now visiting His temple to quicken, cleanse, recondition and prepare for a mighty, worldwide outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the 2nd Pentecost, such as the world has never seen. A people must be made

ready to be used extensively during The Tribulation, a people who will be an instrument in the hand of the Lord for reaping a great harvest throughout the earth. Are you "watching" daily that He might give you greater light and understanding? Are you moving *with* His Spirit into His end-time purposes? His Spirit guides only where the wholeness of God's Word is *studied*!

Are you also watching for His coming "at midnight"? Is the lamp of His Word burning brightly, and is there extra oil in your vessel that you might have the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him (*Eph. 1:17*)? Is the Oil of His Spirit in sufficient supply that the love of God may be shed abroad in your heart (*Rom. 5:5*)? Do you know the love of Christ which far surpasses mere knowledge, that you might be filled with the fullness of God (*Eph. 3:19*)? There is much more to having extra oil than claiming to have had an experience. The 144,000 of the Bride company received by the Bridegroom at the midnight hour are those who follow the Lamb wherever He goes (*Rev. 14:4*). Are you hearing His voice and following Him in everything?

Whether you qualify for the Bride company or not, it is important to be as ready as possible to receive the Mighty Outpouring of the Spirit which is to follow 56 days after the Bride is translated. That outpouring will be upon a *prepared* people who will then be used intensively by the Lord during the harvest days of The Tribulation period. If you are not taken as a part of the Bride company, quickly "watch" for the secret appearance of the Lord or one of His glorified saints, even as the Lord appeared to His Disciples in the upper room after His resurrection (*Lk. 24:36*), or to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (*Lk. 24:13-31*), or to others in that day. Keep your loins girded (virgin) and your lamp burning and be like men who are waiting for their Lord to return from the wedding preparations so that when He comes and knocks you may open to Him immediately (*Lk. 12:35-36*). Since those who are glorified do not need material doors to be opened to them (*Jn. 20:19*), the knocking and opening must be a spiritual readiness to receive, by those who are "watching."

After the mighty and glorious ministry of the saints on earth during The Tribulation (His knocking on the door for admission), there should be a readiness and watching for Jesus' coming "at the cockcrowing." That is when all those truly sanctified will be changed and caught up to be with the Lord (*I Cor. 15:51-54*; *I Thess.*

4:13-17). Then after the marriage supper in Heaven, the Lord will return with all His saints to set up the earthly Kingdom in the pattern of His Heavenly Kingdom; that is His coming "in the morning" in power and great glory.

So now is the time to hear the voice of your God and prepare. The Spirit is saying, "*Come*," for the hour is late and His people are woefully unprepared for what is soon to unfold. There is yet much to enter into, even before the Bride is received. Now it is the Spirit who says "*Come*" in this new day of the Lord's visitation and unveiling to His people, but in time it will be the Spirit and the Bride who will say "*Come*" (Rev. 22:17). Then the saints in glorified power will be working diligently with saints yet in earthly bodies to secure an abundant gathering to the Lord. The day of nuptial festivities will be drawing nigh and garments of beauty and glory must be put on by all guests who would partake of the wedding supper (Matt. 22:9-14).

The bodily approach of Jesus Christ to the planet earth is in three stages. There is much good evidence that by 1970-71 He had left His position at the right hand of His Father and had entered the earth's upper stratosphere, from where the intense brightness of the New Jerusalem has been revealed on several occasions. The second stage is His further descent into the earth's upper atmosphere, preceding by several years the time at which the 144,000 Bride company is to be translated to meet Him where He then is. This translation is to take place on the 10th day of the lunar month of Nisan. The Lord will remain at His upper atmosphere level for exactly 1260 days. Then on the 1st day of the lunar month of Tishri, His household company and administrative staff will be translated to meet Him in the lower atmosphere. Two weeks later, in the evening which begins the Day of Tabernacles, the 15th day of Tishri, He will descend bodily with a huge "comet" trail of the millions previously called out and glorified, His garment of light (Matt. 24:30). He will be seen by the tribes of the land (Palestine), though the sign of His coming, the "comet" trail circling the earth, will be seen elsewhere as well. □

## Chapter 13

### The opposite of WATCH

is 'ZZZZZZ'




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#### A Sober Look at Current Evangelical Teaching on Vigilance by Elliott Stearns

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Consider a strong fortress, with watchmen on the walls ever alert to the slightest intent on the part of outsiders to do harm to the city within. A weaker enemy without could not hope to overcome the city without a very sophisticated “Trojan Horse” stratagem. Of course, a real Trojan Horse only works once. What is needed, the enemy might think, is some way to put an “invisible Trojan Horse” into the fortress, i.e. something in the form of an *idea* which will have the power to induce the city to weaken its defenses from the inside; or forsake its watchfulness against an attack. Best of all would be to make the inhabitants of the citadel to accept a “myth” of divine protection just in case the city were to be attacked. Such a myth, if believed deeply enough, would lull the watchmen on the walls to either forsake their watching; or, if still were they to watch, to watch not as warners but as spectators.

Given enough time for the myth to take deep root in the



city's "soul" and "climate of opinion," the fortress might be brought to the place of such openness and forsaking of keeping the gates closed and its weapons sharpened that a secret surprise attack by an enemy hiding in the woods outside might succeed in its conquest with remarkable ease.

There would be the problem, of course, of the awareness of many of the citizenry that an enemy did indeed lurk outside the walls, with the all-too-obvious understanding joined thereto that the personal preparedness of most of the citizenry to fight against that enemy was woefully inadequate. But again, the concerns of such residents could be met by spreading the idea that, in case of attack, the Founder of the city would instantly come from afar and deliver it. That might be sufficient to convince many, but it would be expected that not a small number of citizens would examine their less-than-pristine lives and ask themselves if they were worthy enough to be so delivered. The patient enemy could neutralize such a fear by having his agents inside the fortress add to the myth of full protection of the city, in case of attack, this "addenda": the Founder loves everyone in the city regardless of their personal failures and, indeed, sees whomever resides in the city as "perfect" in His sight. A movement might even be started, with petitions and signatures to name the city within the fortress "Perfectown." Each generation could teach the next, "*You are perfect in Perfectown.*" To the slower learners among the youth of the day this longsuffering explanation could be preferred: "Yes you, *as you*, are quite imperfect; but the mere fact that you *live in Perfectown* automatically *makes* you perfect in the benevolent sight of the Founder."

If the campaign to seduce this town were really successful, it might be possible to keep the soldiers and watchmen all on duty, fully decked out as mighty soldiers and with parades and drills held regularly and yet at the same time keep them from any real battle experience of any sort. Each "soldier" could be made to believe that since the Founder conquered all of His foes, each of the army-men was also a conqueror and hero because that is how the Founder saw any citizen of

His city.

### ***Is being Born Again enough?***

Any analogy inevitably fails when taken too far. But this is a fair approximation of the mindset of the average evangelical concerning his place in Christ. He is woefully unprepared for the Lord's "*strange work*" (*Isa. 28:21*) because he is convinced that "preparation" is fulfilled, in the main, by his being born-again. Being regenerated from above is, to him, sufficient in itself for the calling of the Lord in the Translation of the saints to effect his transfer to Heaven. No amount of "good works" either adds to or detracts from his "positional victory" in Christ, or qualifies or disqualifies him for the Upward Call.

This is not, he will insist, to say that "good works" or the lack thereof is a matter of import. They are and they determine *the rewards* which one will receive after he finds himself in the heavenlies following the Translation of the saints. But good works play no part in the qualification to participate in that event.

### ***Two Kinds of Watching***

Nor is this evangelical blind to world events or the need to watch. But please note: there are two kinds of watching. There is watching as a *spectator*, and there is watching as a potential *participant*. Awaiting the beginning of a soccer match is far different for the man in the bleachers than it is for the man on the field, even though they are both alert and watching for the opening whistle. The spectator is, by definition, on the sidelines and is, however excited he becomes, in no danger of being kicked or bruised by the events on the field. Changing the metaphor, there is a lot of difference between watching for an invading army if one is a citizen of the land to be invaded versus being a news reporter from a nation having no national interest in the quarrel. The citizen foreseeing the possibility of an invasion force moving

onto his family's land will work mightily to "escape the things coming to pass." Not so with a reporter working on the story for a newspaper in a distant land. In brief, the premillennial evangelical sees himself the reporter; we say he should be, and act more like, the citizen.

How does the rapture-oriented Christian regard the small multitude of Scripture verses admonishing a Christian to "watch" and be *prepared* for the Lord's Return? Believing in an inerrant Bible, there is no way for him to delete them or minimize their importance. Instead, he makes them apply to either non-born-again people who may call themselves "Christian" but who are not truly "saved" (i.e. those who merely "profess" being a Christian without having been regenerated); or to such people as the Jews who find themselves central players during the Tribulation, or to those who become genuinely born-again during the same Tribulation. Other variations are possible; the main thing is that for the evangelical pre-millennialist, the Coming of Jesus Christ is always "imminent" and always with the same result should it happen: a quick transfer of all born-again Christians off from the earth before "things start to happen" with the onset of the Tribulation.

### ***What's being said...***

To illustrate my point, here follows a short collection of brief passages and comments on the subjects of: the Rapture, overcoming, who is translated, and "preparation," taken from some conservative theological journals:

"[O]nly the view that all genuine believers are 'overcomers', not only those who are 'more victorious' in their Christian living, does justice to all the evidence. . . . All of the genuinely saved will turn out to be overcomers and receive the reward Christ promises them. . . . Every person who believes that Jesus is the Son of God is an overcomer. . . . Does every saved person in fact overcome in the Christian struggle? In the Biblical sense, yes. . . . *Revelation 21:7* refers to any saved person. 'He who overcomes shall inherit these things'. The

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context conveys the natural impression that blessings the overcomer inherits are for any saved person.”<sup>1</sup>

“[W]hen Jesus Christ comes the saved will be separated from those who are lost. . . . Neither the church or the rapture are in view [in the Parable of the Ten Virgins].... It is presumed that after the rapture of the church the ministry of the Spirit returns to that which was true before Pentecost, defined in *John 14:17* in the words, ‘He dwelleth with you’, in contrast to what the church experiences that He ‘shall be in you’.”<sup>2</sup>

“The church has no dates, chronological structure, and nobody on the basis of Scripture can predict with absolute certainty the century of the rapture of the church.”<sup>3</sup>

“The context in such instances [i.e. admonitions to ‘watch’] makes clear, as in *Matthew 24-25*, that watching for the Lord’s return has special pertinence after the signs appear but not before them.”<sup>4</sup>

“Other Scriptures confirm that translation [i.e. the Rapture] is not dependent on expectation or watchfulness. . . . the unfaithfulness of those who are drunken [in *Matt. 24:28*] is indicative of failure to believe to the saving of the soul. . . . The safest course would be to identify verse 36 [of *Luke chapter 21*, which reads: ‘*Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.*’] as directed to those in the Tribulation, rather than the church. . . . Those who sleep [described in *I Thess. 5:6*] are obviously the unsaved. . . . It is rather that all believers in Christ are raptured, and then apportioned rewards according to their works.... The judgment which will fall upon the church at Sardis will obviously deal with those who are unsaved.... Here [*Rev. 3:10*, which reads: ‘*Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*’] as elsewhere, however, the distinction is not between believers with works and believers without works. The main thought of the passage is that those without works are not true believers. To accept the principle of translation [i.e. rapture] on the basis of works upsets the whole doctrine of justification and absence of all condemnation for the believer. Further

it vitiates all the promises given to the church as a whole relative to both resurrection and translation."<sup>5</sup>

After the last quote the author continues with his thoughts, asking an important question. He continues with the following:

"The prominence of works as evidence of faith can never be proof of the negation of faith as the sole ground of the grace of God. The works principle immediately breaks down when the question is asked: HOW MUCH WORKS? Evidently no Christian lives perfectly and the Philadelphian Church is no exception."<sup>6</sup>

We will attempt either directly or indirectly to answer this sensible question concerning "how much works." But before any answer is immediately available, we have to ask a question of our own: what does it mean to be "saved"? Here, in brief, is a definition of "regeneration" as furnished by a Bible dictionary (in the interest of space, the Scripture references are not shown):

"Regeneration. . . is equivalent to the 'restitution of all things'. . . it denotes that change of heart elsewhere spoken of as a passing from death to life, becoming a new creature in Christ Jesus, being born again, a renewal of the mind, a resurrection from the dead, a being quickened. This change is ascribed to the Holy Spirit. It originates not with man but with God. As to the nature of the change, it consists in the implanting of a new principle or disposition in the soul; the impartation of spiritual life to those who are by nature 'dead in trespasses and sins'. The necessity of such a change is emphatically affirmed in Scripture."<sup>7</sup>

In terms of ultimate destination, being "saved" means being heaven-bound, as opposed to the unsaved who are, generally, hell-bound.<sup>8</sup> With evangelicals, the issue of salvation is very much an "either-or" thing. A basic acceptance of this doctrine of salvation defines one as an "evangelical."

Insisting on this dichotomy inevitably leads to the kind of reasoning we saw in "Perfectown" and in the quotations from the evangelistic scholars shown above. All questions on one's

"fate" hinge upon the single issue of one's "salvation." If one is "saved" then Scripture verses or passages which ask a believer to "guard" his salvation or which threaten removal from the Book of Life (etc.) *must* refer to other than the truly "saved." Thus the evangelical creates for himself a Scripture-Procrustean Bed wherein he is forced to "stretch" certain verses to make them all believers, and "cut-off" other verses to exclude what he terms merely "professing" Christians, but who are not truly born-again. Thus, the "overcomers" of *Revelation 2-3* are *all* born-anew believers; and the "Foolish Virgins" of *Matthew 25* *cannot* be such.

### *Let's start over...*

But let us for a moment start over and ask: just what does the word "salvation" mean? It denotes – in Greek, Hebrew and English – simply "preservation" or "deliverance". . . period. To "preserve" or to "deliver" implies rescue from a disadvantageous position and placement into safety. Biblical "salvation" is always of this nature. The "disadvantageous position" from which the Christian is delivered by being "born again" is death; the "safe place" then afforded him is life. Now for the \$64,000 question: is life the same as *maturity in life*? or fitness for the various roles and responsibilities heaven has for the ongoing progress and march to total victory of the Kingdom of God? No, one starts with life, then one matures with his life to this or that status or stature. Why is it the born-again Christian insists that the mere possession of "eternal life" makes one ready and fit for heavenly responsibilities or posts?

He will answer: because anything else is "salvation by works"! Not true. Salvation, in terms of deliverance from death is strictly, 100%, absolutely and totally by means of God's grace received by faith plus nothing. Now note an analogy to illustrate where "works" *does* enter into the equation. Suppose a man is out in the sea drowning. A boat comes by, hands reach out and grab the drowning man. He has been, we would say, "saved" in the sense that he has been delivered

from death and now lives. Now suppose that the man is taken to shore, given first aid and perhaps artificial respiration. Eventually he comes to and seems to recover his senses. He then thanks his rescuers and asks the direction to the capital city so he can participate in the government of the kingdom where he has landed. We should think such a man had had his brain affected by his experience if he spoke thus. Yet that is, in essence, what Christians feel their deliverance from death by virtue of being born-again grants them: the full stature of overcomers who shall rule the nations with a rod of iron, etc.

The man on the beach, once recovered from his ordeal, may indeed have granted to him instant *citizenship* in the kingdom where he took up residence. It may even have granted to him the right to attain to any of the highest posts in the land. But no-one, absolutely no-one, in any kingdom on earth; in any branch of military service, in business, in education or any trade or profession would consider a person who *starts* on a path to be qualified to instantly take on the perquisites belonging to the one who has *gone* through all the necessary training for the position. Like it or not, that is "works," which Scripture plainly states a man who has been born anew has been born-anew "unto" (*Eph. 2:10*, see also *II Cor. 9:8*; *Col. 1:10*; *■ Thess. 2:17*, etc.).

Many Christians would have no argument with the idea of rewards after death or the Translation of the saints. The contention is that the rewards have nothing to do with the basic qualification for heaven itself since, as one preacher put it, "there ain't anywhere else to go" for the Christian. Putting that one aside for the moment, we must raise the question: if the Christian is alive at the time of the Translation of the saints, does this state of being automatically qualify him for participation in it by virtue of being born-again? Put another way: is the grace that "saved" from death automatically to be understood as the grace that delivers from the Great Tribulation? And if so, why? Is it inconceivable to consider the possibility that being taken in the Translation of the saints

might be *a reward* merited by works of righteousness, as opposed to being born-again which is a *gift* granted by grace alone through faith?

Please consider the possibility a little longer. The Lord desires that His children be holy – “saints” is the Biblical term. If a born-again Christian is not living a sanctified life, a holy life, is it to be thought incomprehensible that the Righteous and Holy God would allow that one to experience tribulation – even The Tribulation – in order to help him “sort out his priorities” and begin living for God with all of his heart? And should it be considered unjust for the Saviour to “reward” a born-again Christian who *has* lived a sanctified life by translating him out of the time of great tribulation before it commences?

Among other things, the evangelical might retort that yes, it would be unjust, for the simple reason that allowing a Christian to go through the Great Tribulation is equivalent to a death sentence. Why should that be true? The same promises the “overcomers” took advantage of *before* the Tribulation set in are also available to any believer *during* that grievous time. The only difference will be that the Christian living at the time of the Tribulation will be almost ‘forced’ to cry out to God for deliverance, safety, provision and care; whereas the saints who “*kept the Word of My patience*” (Rev. 3:10) beforehand did so without the coercive pressures of the Great Tribulation to drive them deeply into Jesus.

But so what if a Christian is made more perfectly faithful during the Tribulation; having missed the Translation of the saints, must he not now just await death in order to get to heaven? Here we present a concept barely considered by more than a handful in Christendom. Though some have considered the idea of more than one rapture (specifically in the so-called “partial rapture” theory of G. H. Lang and Robert Govett) few have understood the basic patterns in Scripture supporting it. There being no space herein to present a full explication or the *fullness* of Scriptural justifi-



cation, allow me to appeal to the reader to at least consider this idea on the basis of its beauty and simplicity.

One Translation of the saints occurs at the commencement of the Tribulation; and another just before (specifically: two weeks before) the final great and terrible termination thereof with the outpouring of the "Bowls of Wrath." The Translation of the saints at the beginning of the Tribulation is for the prepared and readied; the one at the conclusion is for those left behind who are able (due to the severity of the conditions then prevalent) to "grow up fast" *during* the Tribulation.

### *Many Patterns*

There are many patterns in Scripture presaging such a picture of God's working. One of the clearest of these patterns is found in the Mosaic ordinances concerning the harvesting of a field: a firstfruits was plucked and offered to God and then the harvest followed. The few first-ripe grains always had a special place over the undermatured remainder in the field.

Similarly with the church: those Christians matured over the mass of their fellow Christians are privileged to be taken in the first Translation of the saints. The rest of the "harvest" will be taken toward the end of the Tribulation. In the end therefore, the Lord will have translated into His presence *all* who will to be ready, with none lost. Yes, Christians who were not prepared will indeed be "left behind"; but only for that relatively brief span of three and one-half years, during which they will have the opportunity to make themselves worthy of translation.

Furthermore, the multitudes which become Christians late in the Great Tribulation, or who did not prepare sufficiently during it, form the nucleus of the Christian governments which shall be constituent in the nations which survive the horrors of that period of time, as the Millennium is ushered in.

An oft-used Scripture to refute the idea that any Christian is to go through the Great Tribulation is *I Thessalonians 5:9* which states that the Christian has not been “appointed” (others: “destined”) for “wrath” but rather salvation in Christ Jesus the Lord. True enough; but the point must be taken in its context of “watchfulness” as exhorted in all of the verses immediately preceding *verse 9*: “...let US not sleep” (*vs. 6*); “...let us watch and be sober” (*vs. 6*); “...let us...be sober” (*vs. 8*). Though this chapter has been “parsed” over and over again concerning this very matter in the debates between “pre” and “post” tribulationists, there is enough in the chapter concerning watchfulness to at least allow the question to remain open as to whether the “wrath” of *verse 9* refers to all Christians or to those prepared. It should not be counted too “esoteric” to imagine that a Christian, though not being “appointed” to something, can still end up there by dint of irresponsibility.

### *A false sense of security*

On the subject of watchfulness: though it may be possible to interpret the Scriptures exhorting the same to apply to the Jews or others during the Tribulation, such an interpretation has the net consequence of lulling to sleep and imparting a false sense of security.

On the other hand, a Christian who does *not* know if he has qualified for the Translation of the saints of the FIRSTfruits must remain alert and “on station” *at all times* in order that he might grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. He must watch daily at the posts of the house of Wisdom (*Prov. 8:34*) and take advantage of every opportunity delivered to him through the love of his Saviour. He can be as ecstatic as any Christian over his deliverance from Hell; but he can also be as determined as Paul to “work works” to make it to the finish line. Paul, remember, exercised all of his faculties “lest...when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway” (*I Cor. 9:27* – the word “cast-away” means “not standing the test” and is elsewhere translated “reprobate,” “rejected,” or [in the LXX] “dross”).

## *Live and work in expectation*

Returning to the question posed earlier which asked, "*How much works?*" the answer is deliberately veiled by the Lord, lest any should leave off his calling and his "standing on tip-toe" in expectation of the Return of the Lord. If I may hazard a guess, however, it would appear to me that the work which God has called US to is found in **John 6:29**. There, the "*work of God*" is to believe "into" (literal) Jesus Christ. That is, to "*put on Christ*" (**Rom. 13:14**) to such an extent that He becomes the Christian's "all in all." That is no over-the-week-end exercise in piety.

Therefore, O Christian, watch and pray. Watch as do the first-ripening grains in the wheat-field. They "strain" to develop the "*full corn in the ear*" before their fellows because they are ever "stretching" upwards toward the "*Sun of Righteousness*." These "rare" first-ripe grains become the Lord's "special possessions" or "jewels" which will be discovered to be "missing from the house" (the Church) in some not-too-distant day.

Then will the Church awaken, cry out for grace, receive it, be imbued with Holy Spirit and become a Triumph-Torch during the Tribulation. Multitudes will be saved, delivered, healed, renewed. Denominational walls will all disappear and vanish as the Church becomes One in its utter need for and dependence upon the Lord during that time. Their zeal and determination will make for a harvest beyond counting as the Tribulation draws to its close.

### **FOOTNOTES**

1. James E. Rosscup, "*The Overcomers of the Apocalypse*," **GRACE THEOLOGICAL JOURNAL**, Vol. 3 (Fall, 1982), pages 261 ff.
2. John F. Walvoord, "*Christ's Olivet Discourse on the End of the Age Part V: The Parable of the Ten Virgins*," **BIBLIOTHECA SACRA**, Vol. 129 (April, 1972), pages 99 ff.
3. Walvoord, "*Christ's Olivet Discourse on the End of the Age – Part IV: How Near is the Lord's Return?*" **BIBLIOTHECA SACRA**, Vol. 129 (January, 1972), pages 20 ff.

4. Walvoord, "Posttribulationism Today – Part IV: Futurist Posttribulationism Interpretation," *BIBLIOTHECA SACRA*, Vol. 132 (October, 1975), pages 304 ff.

5. Walvoord, "Pre-millennialism and the Tribulation – Part V: Partial Rapture Theory," *BIBLIOTHECA SACRA*, Vol. 112 (July, 1955) pages 205 ff.

6. Idem

7. *EASTON'S BIBLE DICTIONARY*, "Regeneration."

8. There are disputes among evangelicals regarding the fate of infants, the mentally infirm, those who may have had no chance to have heard the Good News, etc., but these arguments are not germane to the issue of this article. □

## Chapter 14



*“For as a SNARE shall it come upon them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.”*

*— Jesus, Luke 21:35*

A great many of you will agree that the bodily **return of Jesus Christ** to earth is now very **close at hand**. While those of you who do not look for the Lord’s return in the near future, or perhaps not even at all, I charge you in the all beautiful Name of Jesus Christ Whom you serve, that you **give serious consideration** to the thoughts here set before you. To illustrate:

I have heard the vapid argument that since Christ said He would ever be with us – even unto the

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end of the world (*Matt. 28:20*), manifestly it would be impossible for Him to "return." But glance at His other glorious promises such as found in *Matthew 24:27-31*, *Mark 8:38* and others, as well as the unequivocal evidence given by His two messengers according to *Acts 1:10-11*. You will understand that His promise of ever remaining with us referred to the presence of His Holy Spirit, which He promised to send back after His return to the Father (*Jn. 15:26*).

The greatest of deluding arguments about His return, is the contortion of His statement, "*but of that day and hour knows no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only*" (*Matt. 24:36*).

Look at that first word 'but'. What is it? It is a conjunction, binding that statement to the one just previously made. What was that? "*Heaven and earth shall pass away. . . .*"

The words of our Lord were clear: He was talking about that dimly distant future day when our heaven and earth shall pass away; of which day He said that no person knew the time, not even the angels of heaven, but His Father only. It is **not reasonable** to postulate that **on the Lord's return, both heaven and earth shall pass away!** IF such a puerile concept were to be implemented by our returning *King*, **then to what would He be coming?** Whenever the two "pass away," none can be left on earth. Were we to apply the full radical meaning to "pass away," then but a void would remain. Reminded am I of Paul's saying that after he became a man he commenced to think as a man. Should not mature Christians do similarly?

Paul is emphatic that since we are the children of the 'day', we are not to be overtaken by the Lord's return as "*a thief*" in the night (*1 Thess. 5:4*). Nevertheless, there are many passages which do indicate uncertainty as to that 'day and hour,' yet we should not go to the unjustified extreme of 'interpreting' that to mean that we cannot approximate the time very closely. There are two words in the Greek which have been rendered 'know.' One means to be 'aware of,' but without de-

tailed and absolute knowledge. The second one is that of absolute and positive knowledge, which is the one used in Scripture to indicate the uncertainty with reference to *"the day and hour"* of our Lord's return to earth. Did He not excoriate the scribes and Pharisees of His day for "not discerning the signs of the times"? Let US strive to deserve better. . . .

Now swiftly I shall set before you the proof that **our Lord's return is immediately at hand**; yet I cannot say that I "know" (with absolute and positive knowledge). It is but the human mind dealing with the Infinite; wherefore, unless the conceit be too great, we will recognize the possibility of error. Unless the Lord Himself were to appear and speak to a person, stating clearly the year, month, the day and hour that He would return, we are not justified to use the word "know." But when we have sufficiently studied His word, and weighed the massive evidence which concurs that "these are the days," then we can certainly say that we know (are aware) that **the time "is now."** In fact, we can be far more specific by narrowing down the 'now' to the limited era of an odd few years; in fact, the year and day might even be pinpointed!

God spoke of these days through His mouthpiece *Isaiah (11:11)*:

*"the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people...."*

You and I have seen that fulfilled by their return to Palestine. With this in mind, we turn to *Matthew 24:32-34* where we see the Lord promised (His word is faithful) that our generation which has witnessed this marvel, shall not pass away until all the things He was discussing should come to pass. That included His bodily return to earth.

**I forecast the day that Israel declared nationhood (May 14, 1948) about 6 months in advance**, published in a magazine article at that time. Not only an approximate forecast, but precision to the day. Since I have made many of such forecasts, founded in Bible prophecies (which statement I

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can prove beyond dispute), I do not think it conceit to say that *my understanding of prophecy* and of the days in which we live, might well be given serious thought. . . .

**Tishri** is the seventh month of the sacred calendar, which God ordained. On the **15th** of that month is the most holy **festival of Tabernacles**. He named it thus because thousands of years ago, He predetermined that on that day He would commence to 'tabernacle' with men – not as a man in the days of our Lord Jesus, but as very God returned to man.

Turning to the *14th chapter of Zechariah* we find that it deals with the Lord's return to earth, and with conditions then obtaining and those to come. *Verse 7* speaks of that last dark day, saying,

*"at evening time, it shall be light."*

That light is the shining glory of His Person as He returns to earth. Because it will approximate the time of sunset, we know that it will not be the 15th of Tishri, but rather sunset on the 14th which opens the festival of Tabernacles.

During the last several decades I have published at least a hundred and more prophetic equations, all concurring that **in these very years our Christian era shall terminate in a crescendo of nuclear explosions which the Lord in Person will bring to an end at the moment of His bodily return to the Mount of Olives – lest "no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matt. 24:22).** Many of the prophetic equations I have revealed cannot pinpoint the day, and some not even the year, because they are founded in remote events of history, the times of which may remain in dispute.

But that you may better see the reason for several years being indicated rather than one particular year, I wish to point out that the Lord's "return" will take place in three stages covering a period of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years. Because most of our Christian churches have never understood this mystery planned by God, much confusion and dispute has arisen. When once



we understand His three-fold return and the detailed events to take place at each stage, then the mooted Scriptures become clear and all knit to form a harmonious whole.

To begin with, the Lord shall pull His master stratagem to bring His church unto its knees. This He will accomplish by that act which He likened unto "a thief in the night" and "the house broken through" (*Lk. 12:39*) to "take away His jewels" (*Mal. 3:17*). These will be the 144,000 which our Lord calls out of this world "*being a firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb*" (*Rev. 14:4*). Are not "firstfruits" plucked ahead of time from the ripening fruit?

**God uses no wrong words, neither false symbols.** These 144,000 are usually claimed to be Jews by many teachers, but that is in error. Insomuch as our Lord prayed "as in heaven so on earth," He declared that one would balance the other. Therefore, are there 144,000 scheduled to be taken out of Christendom, while a similar number of the returned Jews shall be earmarked to constitute the elect conclave to oversee and direct (according to the orders from the great King) the earthly and embryonic New Jerusalem (which will be the seat of Christ's government during the forthcoming millennial and kingdom eras).

The same heavenly "**firstfruits**" were again symbolized for us by the **five prudent virgins** who had oil in their lamps, as well as by Martha the elder sister who first went to meet the returning Lord 'outside the city' (*Jn. 11:20, 29-30*). Also, in the Old Testament they were beautifully depicted in *Psalms 45:13*, and the first part of *14* by the "*king's daughter*."

So soon as the "firstfruits" are plucked – vanished into thin air – then will the remaining **lukewarm Church** of Jesus Christ realize that they have been weighed and found wanting. They will then know that, at the best, they had been but "**foolish virgins**." As a consequence thereof, panic shall grip them, their repentance and remorse shall be overwhelming. It is this strategy which our Lord has planned to bring His complacent Church to its knees, and to get her into that spirit

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of "all out for Christ" or bust!

## THE THREE STAGES OF THE LORD'S RETURN

### THE FIRST STAGE

As already elucidated, the first stage of our Lord's return is to the earth's upper stratosphere from where **He calls unto Himself the firstfruits.**

### THE SECOND STAGE

**Three and a half years later (Rev. 12:6-14) He descends** into the earth's atmosphere above Jerusalem (*I Thess. 4:16-17*) when the 'last trump' shall sound, **calling unto Himself** that vast, innumerable company which have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb (*Rev. 7:9*). As you will have gathered, they are the "**five foolish virgins**" whom God has also symbolized by the younger sorrowing sister, Mary, who "**sat still in the house**" (*Jn. 11:20*). In *Psalm 45:14* they are shown by:

*"...the virgins her companions that follow her, shall be brought unto Thee."*

— and elsewhere in Scripture referred to as 'concubines.' Thus is completed the second stage of His "presence" as in His "return" He draws ever nearer to our earth.

### THE THIRD STAGE

The third stage follows **two weeks later** when with His **Bride, and that vast innumerable company, He descends to earth. . .**

*"In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

**■ Thessalonians 1:8**

When His feet touch down on Olivet (*Zech. 14:4*), that

worldwide cataclysm which results, brings an abrupt and complete stop to Armageddon. When His world-house has thus been washed clean, and the remnant of His chosen people purged (*Joel 3:21*), **He arrives.**

These three stages of His return are symbolized in reverse through the vision of *Ezekiel*. The Firstfruits who have been baptized in the fire of His Spirit, and live according to the pleasure of His will, are symbolized for us in *Exodus 40:34*, *Isaiah 6:1*, and *Ezekiel 8:4* and *10:3*. As Ezekiel saw the Lord's glory depart by stages, so does He similarly return; the second stage being described in *Ezekiel 10:4*. The third stage is shown us in *Ezekiel 10:18*, and *11:22* and its completion is *verse 24*.

As we study the account *Joshua* left us, we see that Israel crossed Jordan, entering the land promised unto their fathers on the tenth day of the first month. Except for their priest and Caleb, most of them had been born in the wilderness (outside of a percentage of those who were children when their fathers left Egypt).

That wilderness symbolizes this world under the Christian dispensation": we are those 'children born by the way-side'. Joshua portrayed Jesus (or the Holy Spirit working for Jesus); in fact, their names are identical. The water-brimmed Jordan symbolizes death, but Joshua took them across on dry ground. All of which was but 'a shadow of better things to come'. Those of us whom the Lord finds with oil in our lamps, watching and praying, shall be taken out, not tasting of death; then shall we flow into the land promised unto our Christian fathers.

**When?** There is only one day in whatever the year, and that will be **the tenth of Nisan**, 4 days before the Passover. They must be with the Lord long enough to be shorn clean from all earthly stains on the day of Passover, far up in the heavenlies (*Josh. 5:9*).

You must clearly understand the three-fold stages of His

return (as herein explained), in order that when the day of great spiritual panic intrudes or even before – that you, should you find yourself yet on earth, may know precisely what to do. For more than five days following the rapture, the heavens above shall be spiritually black, while on earth mounting and maddening panic – not only among remaining Christians except for those who understand, but throughout all the land.

On the **sixth day following** the rapture (Nisan 16), our **Lord will send back** to earth the **144,000 to warn and instruct the remaining household**, even as our Lord in the days of His flesh sent Martha back to tell Mary that He was calling her (*Jn. 11:28*). Then Mary swiftly arose and went to meet the Lord outside the city in the same place where Martha had met him. The remaining church must then seek “oil for the lamps” with all that spirit they possess. Demon hordes will get cascaded to earth to obsess the unregenerate, and churn them into foaming frenzy. But **Church doors must be thrown wide open for unceasing prayer**, night and day.

From Nisan the 16th, **seven full weeks of relentless prayer must ascend to God**: then shall the answer come. On the **fiftieth day shall second Pentecost** come to earth on a world-wide scale, and light upon all who are “in the upper room.” Once more shall cloven tongues of fire appear, once more shall we see the very power of God on earth as was manifested by our Lord of old, even to the extent of doing greater and mightier and more wonderful works than He did (*Jn. 14:12*). **What glorious days await the sons and daughters of Jesus Christ!**

Yet, on the other hand, the greatest terror and bloodcurdling horrors shall fill our land. Forget not that the Lord permitted a legion of devils to enter the herd of swine: the swine were crazed, and stampeded to their own destruction. We are told there were “about 2,000” which prophesied of that many years until that ‘shadow-prophecy’ was to fulfill (in accordance with what I have just stated). That is why **you**

110  
have no time to lose: you must be fully instructed and prepared for the days which lie ahead. Even though our Lord might still "postpone," remember –

**OUR  
TIME  
IS  
SHORT !**

*"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."*

*Luke 21:36*

## Chapter 15

# Concerning the Second Advent



**BASED ON MATERIAL FROM**

**MIKKEL DAHL**

**EDITED BY JON R. WELKER**

**W**E WANT TO SET BEFORE YOU, OUR FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES, AN OUTLINE OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO THE SECOND ADVENT OF OUR LORD JESUS AND EVENTS SURROUNDING IT. WE HAVE LITERATURE WHICH PRESENTS THIS SUBJECT COMPREHENSIVELY AND VERIFIES OUR CONCLUSIONS IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES. WE INCLUDE THIS OUTLINE TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE IMMINENCY OF MOMENTOUS EVENTS, AND TO PROVIDE AN ACCURATE SUMMARY OF THESE EVENTS. THERE EXISTS TODAY SO MUCH ERRONEOUS THINKING IN THIS AREA.

THE LORD JESUS EMPHASIZED REPEATEDLY THE NECESSITY OF BEING ALERT RELATIVE TO HIS COMING AGAIN.

*"TAKE HEED AND BE ON THE ALERT; FOR YOU DO NOT KNOW WHEN*

THE APPOINTED TIME IS. IT IS LIKE A MAN, AWAY ON A JOURNEY, WHO UPON LEAVING HIS HOUSE AND PUTTING HIS SLAVES IN CHARGE, ASSIGNING TO EACH ONE HIS TASK, ALSO COMMANDED THE DOORKEEPER TO STAY ON THE ALERT. THEREFORE, BE ON THE ALERT FOR YOU DO NOT KNOW WHEN THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE IS COMING, WHETHER IN THE EVENING, AT MIDNIGHT, AT COCKCROWING, OR IN THE MORNING; LEST HE COME SUDDENLY AND FIND YOU ASLEEP. AND WHAT I SAY TO YOU I SAY TO ALL, **'BE ON THE ALERT!'**

MARK 13:33-37

(All quotes in this chapter are from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD VERSION.)

## ***The Four Watches***

The admonition to **"be on the alert"** is intimately linked with the references to the watches of the night as they were designated at that time under the Roman rule. The first watch, referred to as **"in the evening,"** was from six to nine; the second was from nine to twelve, and was called the **"midnight"** watch; the third from twelve to three was designated the **"cockcrowing"** watch; and the fourth watch, from three to six, is spoken of as **"in the morning."**

Although the Lord was emphasizing to those He was addressing, the fact that they did not yet understand the exact time of His Second Coming, He was also giving a **veiled insight** into the various phases of that coming (**Rev. 19:10**). Actually, there is a phase or episode of His coming that is fulfilled in each of the four watches mentioned.

## ***In the Evening***

According to the Jewish reckoning of time, a new day of twenty-four hours always began **"in the evening"** with the setting in of darkness. However, "darkness" is always associated with the world or those who have not yet come to accept Christ, and not with those who are engaged in following Him. When Jesus speaks, therefore, of His coming first **"in the evening,"** He is referring to that time period at the end of this

age and just prior to the establishment of His earthly kingdom when a "new day" is beginning. To the world it means the setting in of increased darkness, but to those who are "alert," this first watch of the "new day" means an **increase of spiritual light or truth**. It is His coming in a further revelation of Himself to give **understanding to those who are seeking**.

Never before since the days of the apostles in the first century has there been such an opportunity for increased spiritual illumination and understanding as in this day. Prophetic truth indicates that mankind has now passed through the time allowed for the second watch, which is to culminate in the immediate future at "midnight."

## **Midnight**

Midnight concludes the second watch of the night. However, as has been mentioned, since the Hebrew day began at sunset, it is actually the second period of a new day. We need to keep in mind the double significance of the prophetic picture. To most of the world the "day of the Lord" is a period of increasing darkness (*Joel 2:1-2; Zeph. 1:14-18*). But to those who are alert and prepared and not overcome by the darkness of the night and not "sleeping," it is a time of increased light and understanding. Concerning the Lord's coming "at midnight," we read in *Matthew 25:1-12*:

*"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be compared to ten maidens who took their lamps and went to meet the Bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them: but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the Bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Behold the Bridegroom! Come out to meet Him'. Then all those maidens rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out'. But the wise replied, 'Perhaps there will not be enough for us and you; go rather to the dealers and*



*buy for yourselves'. And while they went to buy, the Bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with Him to the marriage; and the door was shut. Afterward the other maidens came also saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us'. But He replied, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you (sufficiently)'.*"

The wise maidens were taken unto the Lord for "marriage," and the foolish maidens were left outside – for the time being. However, they were encouraged to prepare properly when they had discovered their lack.

This coming at midnight is referred to elsewhere as Jesus' coming *"as a thief."*

*"Remember therefore what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. If therefore you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come upon you."*

#### *Revelation 3:3*

Notice the warning in regard to being unprepared, as were the foolish maidens. The same warning note is sounded in *Revelation 16:15*,

*"Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his garments lest he walk about naked and men see his shame."*

A thief, when he breaks in to take something, does not announce his coming, and the only evidence that he has been there is that something valuable is missing. He comes, *"at an hour that you (whoever remains unaware) do not expect"* (Lk. 12:40).

The Lord comes to take His jewels or special treasure (*Mal. 3:16-17*). This special treasure is the 144,000 firstfruits group made up of the wise maidens who have been *"purchased from among men as a firstfruits to God and to the Lamb"* (*Rev. 14:1-5*). Those who qualify will be taken unto the Lord at the commencement of that period of *"Great Tribulation"* on the earth. That period will last three and a half years, forty-two months or twelve hundred and sixty days.

## ***Cockcrowning***

Not only did the Lord indicate He would come in the second watch, as a thief at midnight, to take His Bride, but He indicated His coming in the third watch as well. At the close of the third watch, He will bring unto Himself that portion the Church symbolized by the foolish maidens. In **Mark 13:35**, this further aspect of the coming of the Lord is indicated, "**at cockcrowing.**" The cockcrowing is at the close of the third watch which was from midnight to three. It was undoubtedly during this very watch that Peter denied his Lord. Previously, as they went out into the mount of Olives, Jesus had said to Peter,

*"Truly, I say to you, that you yourself this very night, before a cock crows twice, shall three times deny Me."*

**Mark 14:30**

It happened even as Jesus had spoken (**Mk. 14:66-72**).

So, we see from Scripture that "cockcrowing" is connected with denial. Here is a possible indication that those not joined to the Bridegroom at the midnight hour, who then go through the Tribulation period, have, at some time and in some measure, not responded to the call to preparation fully, as symbolized by the foolish maidens.

When the Lord comes at the close of the third watch, "**at cockcrowing,**" it is for all who have been made ready during the "**Great Tribulation**" (**Rev. 7:9-17**). Even as in the natural, the crowing of the cock awakens those who are yet sleeping, so will it be when the Lord comes "**at cockcrowing**"; those who have "fallen asleep in Jesus" shall be raised. The then prepared members of the Lord's Church who are alive shall be "**...caught up together with them into the clouds to meet the Lord in the air**" (**II Thess. 4:13-18**).

It should be mentioned here that there will be many Christians who will remain on earth as the "seed" of the earthly kingdom. The call to the Christian, however, is to be **diligent in preparation, service and love** with the hope of participa-

tion in the heavenly harvest.

During the ***“Great Tribulation,”*** which has a duration of three and a half years (forty-two months or twelve hundred and sixty days), the Bride Company (Firstfruits of Wise Maidens, as that group is variously named) will be issuing a call to those then in preparation.

*“And the Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come’. And let the one who hears say ‘Come’. And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes, take the water of life without cost.”*

***Revelation 22:17***

This call is an invitation, and all who are able to respond will participate in the marriage supper of the Lamb in the heavenlies, referred to in ***Revelation 19:9***. The foolish maidens, or the Tribulation harvest of Christians, will be joined to the Lord in the heavenlies just prior to the conclusion of the ***“great tribulation.”*** That group will constitute ***“a great multitude which no man could number”*** (***Rev. 7:9***).

## ***In the Morning***

The final phase of the “Coming” of the Lord, as it is symbolized by the “watches” as recorded in ***Mark 13:35***, is to take place at the close of the ***“Great Tribulation.”*** In fact, it is the personal, visible return of the Lord Jesus to earth which intervenes so that “all flesh” does not perish. The Lord Himself will touch down on the Mount of Olives. He will arrive with ***“power and great glory,”*** His glory being seen by those on earth who have survived the nuclear holocaust which will have raged throughout the ***“seven bowls of wrath.”***

What the inhabitants of the earth will actually see first is the ***“sign”*** of the Son of man in heaven (***Matt. 24:30***). This is the ***“glory cloud”*** which will begin to be seen after He gathers His ***“harvest.”*** It will be this supernatural light of the Lord and the glorified overcoming armies appearing in the heavens that will cause “all the tribes of the land to mourn.” Finally, they shall see. . .

*“the Son of man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.”*

*Matthew 24:39*

The “clouds” which accompany Him are the “elect” who will have been gathered previously and who appear with Him in His manifestation of great glory. This phase of the Lord’s work, as it is symbolized by the “watches,” is known as “in the morning.” The “new dawn” has fully dawned in one sense.

## ***The Watches Completed***

The various phases of the second advent of the Lord have now been completed.

*“The kingdoms of the earth have become the kingdoms of the Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever.”*

*Revelation 11:15*

Although this is true, it may be some years before the Millennial Sabbath will formally inaugurate. The New Jerusalem, the Heavenly City of the Lord Jesus, will have descended to a position above earthly Jerusalem.

*“In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”*

*John 14:1-3*

It is from there that the Lord and His “household” will administer the earthly kingdom with headquarters in Jerusalem. An age of peace and righteousness for the earth will have begun. The process of growth in maturity for God’s earthly and heavenly children will continue.

The prophetic significance of the Feasts of Israel, and other prophetic patterns, reveal the Lord’s timetable of these momentous events. We are aware of the specific months and

days on which these events will take place, although we are not absolutely certain of the year that will see the initiation of the events. There is not space here to develop this subject, although information is available upon request.

## Chapter 16

# "...IN THE SECOND WATCH AND IN THE THIRD WATCH...."

by MIKKEL DAHL

It is now quite a few years since I brought to the attention of my readers *Luke 12:37-38*. According to the Authorized Version and many other versions, *verse 38* reads:

*"...if He shall come in the second watch, OR come in the third watch...."*

Naturally, the translators of the original Greek scripts could only conceive of our Lord's return as one event. Therefore did they take the liberty of rendering the Greek *kai* for "or," instead of its proper meaning which is "and." Without exception (so far as I know) the oldest editors of the Greek text used the *kai* word. Therefore, in English, that portion would read *"if He shall come in the second watch, and come in the third watch...."*

Which original texts clearly imply two comings! I am not aware that any of our recognized Christian churches teach that He comes more than once in these latter days.

So far as I am aware, I am the only one who teaches that our Lord first leaves the Heavenly glory to come into our earth's upperstratosphere, to there remain until He has called out the Firstfruits, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years later those who have arrived at sainthood during that Tribulation. Two weeks later, He

descends to earth in the glory and power of His Father, together with the countless millions He had previously called unto Himself.

According to *John 9:4-5*, He said:

*"I must work the works of Him that sent Me while it is day, the night cometh when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the Light of the world."*

By which statement He clearly implied that there was a spiritual sunset to take place at the time of the crucifixion. Thereafter would follow a 'night' of great spiritual darkness, during which there would be such an absence of spiritual light that no one could work effectively.

However, we are all aware that merely because the sun has set, there is a twilight period, during which the daylight diminishes until complete darkness sets in. It was during that "twilight" that His Disciples went forth to witness, performing miracles in the Name of Jesus Christ. But as they departed this world, so did spiritual blackness envelope: since those days, there has been nothing but sleepwalking, and sleep-talking – even nothing but the muttering of dreams by the organized churches. Were it not for the rare and occasional servant He has anointed to declare the approaching daybreak, and the *"meat due for this season"* (*Lk. 12:42*), the Stygian night would still be blacker than ever! □

## Chapter 17

# THE TWO WITNESSES

Excerpt from *THE MIDNIGHT CRY*

by Mikkel Dahl



**S**hall not every word be established in the mouth of two or more witnesses (*Deut. 17:6; Matt. 18:16*)? ...Therefore, that world-rocking message which shall raise a great clamor at midnight, cannot be voiced by a lone messenger: two shall be required! Did Christ come to His people without first sending a chosen and properly qualified messenger to prepare His way? Thus again when the Bridegroom is about to return, special messengers shall herald the news. Therefore speaks His Word about 'two witnesses' which shall 'prophecy one thousand, two hundred and three-score days (1260), clothed in sackcloth' (*Rev. 11:3*).

These 'two witnesses' have a twofold application; first that which runs through a period of 1260 solar years, and secondly that which covers 1260 solar days, or almost three and a half years.

*Revelation 11:4* and *Zechariah 4* speak of these as 'two olive trees, and the two candlesticks'.... We know by *Revelation*



**1:20** that the 2 candlesticks are TWO CHURCHES (of Christ). Therefore must we look to the inception of the TWO CHURCH *system*.

Although some would argue that these two churches have not had the 'POWER' which shall be given to His Two Witnesses, yet we should understand that it is the 'ANGEL of the Church' (**Rev. 1:20**) which wields the POWER rather than the earthly organization over which he presides. The countless plagues and desolations visited on mankind during the last millennium have, undoubtedly, come about through the POWER vested in the angels ruling over the two churches. The latter two have now merged into the Catholic and Protestant.

The great error of so many students of Scripture is that when finding ONE fact which bears out His Word, the door to TRUTH is immediately banged in His face, refusing to recognize that He is too great to be limited to one little detail! The ramifications of His Plan are so vast that the finite mind of man can only approach it in minor detail! Neither should we pick any one of such details and LIMIT it to but one application. Especially does that hold true in the present instance where TWO different terminologies are used to express what appears to be the same period of time: namely, 'forty two months' and '1260 days' (see **Rev. 11:2,3**.) This repetition by the Holy Spirit in CHANGED terms is to *impress* on the reader the TWO main prophecies: the one in years and the other in days.... **Verse 2** also appears to link with the Mohammedan era and its 'treading down' of the Holy City which commenced in power at the setting up of the Mosque of Omar on the Temple site in 694 A.D. (or thereabout; chronologers differ). Yet this too (treading down) we should expect to REfulfill in the Endtime throughout a period of 1260 days.

The same Truth applies to **verse 4** which speaks of the two olive trees and the two candlesticks.

To say that the 'two olive trees' are THE SAME as the two

churches is taking too much liberty with the Word of God. Trees are used throughout the inspired text to designate mighty men, and sometimes nations. Paul links the TRUE olive tree with the Jewish nation. This is well justified. But in *Zechariah 4:3, 11, 12*, we see where these two olive trees empty the 'golden oil' through the two olive BRANCHES into the bowl of the candlestick. Wherefore, they cannot be two Jewish NATIONS but, rather, two MEN of Jewish extraction. This becomes even more clear if we view the two branches in the light of Jesus' words found in *John 15:5*: "**I AM the vine, ye are the BRANCHES.**" According to this analogy by the Master, a tree is a founder or a Father like Abraham or Himself, while the branches become lesser individuals rooted in that individual or nation.

Accordingly we see that one olive tree stands on the RIGHT side of the Candlestick while the other is on the left. This becomes the spiritual and the earthly. While its two branches become TWO MEN, one standing for the spiritual (the Spirit-born Church), while the left side branch stands for the NATION ("*. . . they are BELOVED for the fathers' sakes,*" *Rom. 11:28*). Since the two branches proceed from the two olive trees, they become two men of Jewish extraction: one as an integrated part of the Church (of Christ) while the other called out of, and primarily FOR the nation (left).

*" . . . Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, WHICH SHALL NOT TASTE OF DEATH, till they have seen the Kingdom of God come with power."*

*Mark 9:1*

*IF* we believe His words, then of necessity must we believe that there are some (more than one) Jews who then heard Him speak \* *WHO ARE STILL ALIVE!!* \*

The Christian churches which have consistently 'limited the Holy One of Israel', have taught us to believe that the above words were fulfilled some eight days later when He was transfigured before three of them. But it must be con-

ceded that UNLESS other events transpired on the Mount of Transfiguration which have never been recorded, we cannot be justified to speak of His Transfiguration in itself as being 'the Kingdom of God coming in power'. From the first inception of His ministry, the 'Kingdom of God' was preached unto them and declared unto them as 'nigh'. And on numerous occasions had the multitudes and disciples witnessed manifestations of POWER which were equal to, if not far surpassing, the 'power' manifest on the Mount – according to the Record! To affirm His transfiguration – glorious as it was – to be 'the Kingdom of God coming in Power', is to do violence to reason, as well as to seriously make us wonder WHAT WE ARE WAITING FOR if THAT was THE Kingdom coming in POWER!!! For, assuredly our concept of God's Kingdom operating in Power, has no foundation in truth – IF HIS transfiguration constituted its manifestation! THAT was but a preview of a portion of His GLORY!

Nay – beloved in Christ – we should not thus contort the meaning of His Word!

On another occasion He said: "*IF I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?*" (Jn. 21:22). Immediately His disciples interpreted that to mean that John was not to die! But much later, John himself, when he was getting old and yearning to be with His Lord in spirit, comforted himself by reasoning thus: "But He said not, he shall not die...." We can well understand John's psychology, and that inner yearning which made him grasp at a straw as it were. But has it occurred to the reader that concerning the other 11 disciples, we have *detailed legends* as to the place and manner of their death – by violence – but as to John there is *no legend whatsoever pertaining to his death!!!?*

It has been 'surmised', or commonly believed that he died of old age in Patmos! – or elsewhere. . . .

'IF' 'the Son of man be lifted up. . . .' Was He not 'lifted up'? And again He said: "What and IF ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where He was before?" Later on did they not

see Him 'ascend up where He was before'? In great confidence the challenge is given: Produce the evidence where even on one occasion He toyed with words! Time and again He used the word 'IF' similarly, but always the other words spoken were realized, or fulfilled in reality. How utterly preposterous to suppose that the glorious King of all Creation should toy with words, dangling pictures before their eyes of what MIGHT be, yet not in His intentions to be!

CONSUME His every Word; LIVE in the Gospels until you KNOW the blessed Lord of Life and LOVE – incarnate, THEN shall you know that John the beloved disciple *IS STILL ALIVE!*

He is as old as the Christian era itself – and more. He has lived about 1000 years longer than the oldest patriarch – Methuselah! But with this tremendous difference, that whereas *they* aged and grew decrepit, John commenced to grow younger near the time of his last recorded years on Patmos! NOW we may vision him back in the vigor of his youth with all of its suppleness and vibrant energy. Yet his form is as the crags, and his flowing beard might well be the envy of any antique collector!

But who is the second witness? Who is his companion? Or do you suppose that the God of Compassion would leave one man alone all by himself? Never!

On one occasion and on one other only, did our Lord speak words which equalled those unto John; although phrased much differently, they were fraught with such mystic meaning!

Talking to Martha and Mary, Jesus said unto them:

\*\*\* ***"LOOSE HIM AND LET HIM GO!" (Jn. 11:44)*** \*\*\*

Readers familiar with these studies-in-Truth, are well aware that our Lord has 'CONFORMED' all things unto the basic Pattern. Moreover, He 'conformed' His own earthly life and ministry – and every word – unto the same Pattern!

Have you forgotten the instance where He said: *"The ser-*

*vant abideth not in the house forever; but the Son abideth ever. IF the Son therefore shall*

**\* MAKE YOU FREE \* – you shall be FREE indeed!” ?**

Wherefore, in saying to the sisters *“Loose him and let him go,”* He uttered a command, speaking from His own center of Divine consciousness. Dwell for a moment on the vast scope of those words, and you will realize that the order received and understood by Martha and Mary was – as it were – but the outer fringe of its great depth and scope! Its INNER and full meaning the Lord of Life had already enacted! Can you not grasp the situation and the full implication of the Lord’s words? For, unless He had and would Himself LOOSE this man, and see to that he went ‘free’, it would have been impossible for Him to issue that order to the sisters! For He Himself must first CONFORM thereto! Previously He had said: ‘Take ye away the stone’. Already the Lord had removed the spiritual weight and barrier for Lazarus to come forth, otherwise his resurrection would have been impossible! (These are great and mighty Truths which you do well to dwell upon at length.)

Thus are there two Witnesses (‘witnesses’ to His life, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension) alive today: John the beloved, and Lazarus ‘whom He loved’. They have come down through these ages of time, ‘standing before the Lord of the whole earth’. John is giving his life in intercession for the Church, being on the Lord’s right Hand, while Lazarus standing on the left is giving himself for his nation – that it should not be entirely consumed in the just wrath of the King of kings – their Messiah Whom they rejected!

These are the two for whom it has been ‘prepared by the Father’ that they should sit ‘one on the Lord’s right Hand and the other on His left – in His Kingdom’ (*Matt. 20:21-23*).

And its reason? *“Greater love has no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends” (Jn. 15:13).*

‘Laying down one’s life for his friends’ is not confined to

*dying* for one's friends! The ENTIRE LIFE that Jesus lived was 'laid down for His friends', – and consummated on Calvary's Cross. And similarly are John and Lazarus laying down their lives for THE CHURCH and their people, and will consummate the sacrifice at the end of the 1260 days of 'witnessing'. Undoubtedly the two offices awaiting them are – without exception – the two highest posts available in the Lord's coming Kingdom. Wherefore, the grooming for these two posts is also out of the ordinary. Worthy, doubly worthy are they of the honor. . . .

WHERE have they been these 19 centuries? Where are they now? THAT but they can answer! But the probability is that the Lord did show them a 'retreat' in the ancient city of Mount Seir, now called Petra. It used to be the stronghold of Esau – nestled between the mighty crags. Today it is a series of countless caves into the solid rock.... THERE it is probable that His two witnesses have lived, and will emerge at the appointed moment WHEN they receive that word from above.

Vision then – if you can – two men, in appearance more ancient than the very hills, emerging into a strange city, clothed in sackcloth garments uncommon to this day. Their hair is likely polled but beards flow freely. They enter into modern Jerusalem which once they intimately knew and loved so well. The language of their people has changed but little in these many centuries. But their garb has been revolutionized! No radio announcement of their coming is needed; no newspaper headlines to declare the two visitors 'out of this world'! Every person on first sighting them gets glued to the spot in gaping consternation!

Concerning the one we know very little, but when the 'son of Boanerges' lifts up his voice to address the rapidly gathering mob, he needs no P.A. system, for, his voice can be heard above the racket of modern traffic! This 'son of thunder' (so named by our Lord) booms out a message that shall sizzle the press-wires of Christendom! In substance he may be expected to say:

pected to say:

"You sons of Jacob, HEAR! The long awaited Messiah IS NOW AT HAND – even He Whom your fathers condemned and nailed to the tree! We KNOW – Lazarus and I – for we were eye-witnesses to His life and ministry, to His crucifixion and death, to His resurrection and ascension into the GLORY! The time is fulfilled and the restitution of all things is accomplished that once more He is to visit Israel. PREPARE YOURSELVES TO MEET HIM! . . ."

THAT is \* "THE CRY AT MIDNIGHT!" \* The Christian church throughout the world receives it with awe and consternation, yet immediately KNOWS its Truth and import. While the Jews as a nation will only receive it in part. Too colossal will it be to fully accept for the carnally minded, yet too weird to entirely reject!

But these chosen messengers are not like modern hypocrites and 'psychologists' who hand out a bunch of 'soft soap' to get a cordial reception! In the plainest of language their nation will be tongue lashed as never before. For, those two shall truly "lift up their voice like a trumpet," and with great power "declare to Jacob his sin and to Israel his transgression!" (*Isa. 58:1*). In short time they shall earn for themselves the hatred of modern Jewry as did their Lord! Over and above that, the political 'powers that be', will spew forth propaganda to discredit them in the sight of the masses. Yet multitudes shall BELIEVE! The situation will not be too unlike that obtaining in the days of our Lord. THEN shall the age of 'miracles' again be upon us in the glory of its pristine Power!

Although they shall be hated and rejected by the political leaders and 'powers' in the world, their message and prophesying shall go on unhindered. For, it was said unto John 18<sup>1/2</sup> centuries ago:

*"Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations and tongues and kings."*

*Revelation 10:11*

THAT shall now soon be fulfilled. . . . *“And if any man will hurt them, fire proceeds out of their mouth and devours their enemies; and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed” (Rev. 11:5).* Were it not for that, they would get silenced in short order! But with them as with every true immortal – past, present and future – they have an ABSOLUTE and Divine PROTECTION – until that hour arrives that the life is sacrificially yielded.

*“These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.*

*And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.*

*And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. . . and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.*

*And after three days and an half the Spirit of Life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.*

*And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, ‘COME UP HITHER’. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.*

*And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were afrighted and gave glory to the God of Heaven.”*

*Revelation 11:6-9, 11-13*

Almost 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years booms that mighty voice before the Lord permits it to be stilled. John lashes out at the religious elements not only there but throughout Christendom; Lazarus gives his own people that ‘going over’ they have earned for themselves. No wonder their death shall be sought on every hand. And during those days of the two Witnesses, tribula-



in formally 'iron curtain' countries the persecution of Christians will reach new peaks in modern savagery. THEN comes the end (unto the Church) when the Two Witnesses shall be killed and their bodies lie unburied three and a half solar days. At the end thereof when LIFE enters them afresh, they stand upon their feet, *HEADING* the resurrection of the saints, which is instantaneously followed by the translation of the members of the Church of Christ – still alive at that day.

THAT is the 'cloud' which they head and in which they ascend to Heaven!

But we are slightly ahead in our narrative. On the day and moment when John and Lazarus enter Jerusalem striking fear and consternation to its heart – the MESSAGE goes forth; the 'clamor at midnight' has sounded; the warning circles the globe. And this is the message to *YOU* – *IF* you can receive it:

From THAT moment, precisely 3 to 4 solar days remain until the Lord shall visit His people, even like unto 'a thief in the night'! Yet THAT is not His 'coming' (to earth). In that hour of the thief in the night, 'the Firstfruits unto God and the Lamb will be *taken out* of the world – as by stealth. The 'GEMS' will be missing throughout Christendom!

*"Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation which shall come upon the world, to TRY them that dwell upon the earth."*

### *Revelation 3:10*

But His 'coming' with His saints in GLORY to REIGN – even 'as the lightning strikes in the east and shines unto the West' (*Matt. 24:27*) – will at that time still be  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years future.

Because the organized church as a whole has refused to fully honor His Word – 'limiting the Holy One of Israel – confusion has reigned, and still does. They have refused to recognize that as "*Enoch walked with God and was not for God took him,*" so was he a *type* of the *secret* rapture of the FIRSTfruits

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*took him,*" so was he a *type* of the *secret* rapture of the FIRST fruits unto God. As Enoch was taken BEFORE the flood, so shall the First fruits be taken BEFORE 'that hour of temptation' which shall come upon the earth. No one is recorded as having witnessed the translation of Enoch, neither shall anyone see the departure of the First fruits. But *when* they are taken, then dawns the hour of the 'Five Wise Virgins' who have oil in their lamps. THEN shall the remaining Church realize that their HOUSEhold 'has been broken through' (*Lk. 12:39*) – "in that day when I make up My Jewels; and I will spare them as a man spareth his own son that serveth him" (*Mal. 3:17*). THEN shall commence the lamentation of the 'five foolish Virgins'.

Another prophetic factor usually overlooked in the Scripture cited, is linked with the 'bodies' of the 'two Witnesses' which shall lie unburied 3.5 days. Those 'bodies' are also symbolic of the dead bodies of His 'Witnesses' throughout the world, and very especially in those countries symbolized by 'Sodom and Egypt'. This betokens for the end-time a 3½ year period of UPRISINGS and REPRISALS against and persecution of God's servants – regardless of the name by which they are known. 'Suffered not their bodies to be buried' implies *a continuation without cessation* of that revolutionary condition throughout the period of 1260 days.

Finally, let us look briefly at the prophetic factors involved in the *13th verse* which speaks of the great earthquake which fells 1/10 of the city and slays 7000 men.

Although it is not pointedly stated, by implication the city is Jerusalem – 'where also our Lord was crucified.' Yet in that it says 'which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt', it includes any and all parts of the present civilization.

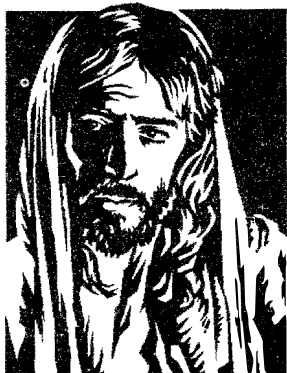
Wherein it states that 1/10 of the city fell, it implies the absolute termination of the Torah to such extent as it is still observed by Jewish people. While outside Jewry it betokens the fall of Gentile governments and their present Babylonish system of government, politics and economics.

In that it says 7000 men were slain, it shows us the absolute TERMINATION of the present Christian dispensation. For, '7' is the number of His Church, while its 3 ciphers bespeak its SOUL POWER (= x 10) for the entire world (= x 100). Spiritually viewed, it becomes the '7' taken, or raised to the 'plane of God' the lowest number of which is 1000. Thus the death of 7000 bespeaks the final REAPING by God of His own by taking them out of this world even though through the portal of death!

**"PREPARE, OH ISRAEL  
TO MEET YOUR GOD!"**

## Chapter 18

THE  
THREE PHASE  
COMING  
OF  
JESUS



— A BRIEF SURVEY —

BY LELAND EARLS EDITED BY JON R. WELKER

HERE WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A BRIEF ANALYSIS OF THE NATURE OF  
CHRIST'S RETURN IN 3 STAGES —

*THOSE STAGES BEING:*

1. HIS COMING TO HIS SAINTS
2. HIS COMING FOR HIS SAINTS
3. HIS COMING WITH HIS SAINTS

*THE COMING OF JESUS TO HIS SAINTS*

**B**y the Spirit. First, we need to see that there is a spiritual coming of the Lord TO His church through the personal ministry of the Holy Spirit. Our authority for this is found in *John 14:15-18*, where Jesus promises another

Comforter, and then He says: "**I WILL COME TO YOU.**" Jesus was very clear in His teaching on the Holy Spirit in **John 14-16**, that this one who was to be sent was HIS personal representative, acting on HIS behalf, and communicating HIS life, truth, presence, etc. to HIS disciples (see particularly **Jn. 16:13-15**). By means of the personal ministry of the Holy Spirit, HE would always be *with* them, to the end of the age (**Matt. 28:20, Heb. 13:5**).

**S**uddenly coming. God had spoken through the Prophet Malachi concerning HIS COMING to His people in these words:

*"Behold, I will send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me; and the Lord, Whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple."*

**Malachi 3:1**

This was *first* fulfilled when God in human flesh came to the Jews in the person of Jesus. The messenger who prepared the way was John the Baptist. In the early part of His ministry, Jesus came suddenly to the Temple at Jerusalem and cleansed it of the money changers (**Jn. 2:13-17**). However, I want to point out a *second* application which was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost after Jesus had been raised from the dead and had ascended back to the Father.

The disciples, who had gathered in the upper room to wait for the "promise of the Father" (**Acts 1:4**), had become, through the previous impartation of the Holy Spirit (**Jn. 20:22**), His *spiritual* TEMPLE. But Jesus was yet to COME to that Temple in order to endue and fill it with power and glory. This was to be accomplished through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Note the words in **Acts 2:1-2**:

*"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And SUDDENLY there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting."*

Thus in fulfillment of **Malachi 3:1**, Jesus

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*suddenly came* to His spiritual Temple when the Holy Spirit was outpoured upon the waiting disciples.

## THE COMING OF JESUS FOR HIS SAINTS

**R**ecieve. We have already quoted Jesus' promise in *John 14:3* that He would come again and RECEIVE His own unto Himself, and also alluded to Jesus' statement in the parable of the pounds recorded in *Luke 19:1-27*. Verse 12 tells of a certain nobleman (symbolizing Himself) who "*went into a far country to RECEIVE FOR HIMSELF a kingdom, and to RETURN.*" Notice, the kingdom (people) is received FOR Him first, and then He returns WITH it. This is in harmony with the Greek word *paralambano* which we examined in the article herein entitled "One Taken. . . the Other Left" as used in *Matthew 24:40*, which means "to RECEIVE NEAR."

As we examine the Scriptures, however, the evidence points to the fact that Christ will receive His saints to Himself in TWO groups, separated by a period of time. Remember that the word church (*ecclesia*) means the "called out ones." Just as we have been spiritually called out of the "Egypt" of this world, so will the saints of the true church be literally "called out" of the present earthly conditions, putting on immortal, incorruptible and glorified bodies, which will no longer be subject to the limitations of the physical realm. Christ cannot "receive" them unto Himself unless their bodies are changed into the likeness of His glorious body, so that they can function in the heavenly realm where He is, and also manifest or appear in the physical realm as He did after His resurrection to glorified life.

**I**llustrate. There are a number of Scriptural illustrations which can clarify this truth of the two-fold church, or the church being received in two groups. I will list them briefly, but they are dealt with separately and in detail in my booklet, *THE THREE PHASE COMING OF JESUS*.

1. WISE AND FOOLISH VIRGINS (*Matt. 25:1-13*)
2. CHILDREN AND FRIEND (*Lk. 11:5-8*)
3. FEEDING OF 5,000 AND 4,000 (*Matt. 14:15-21, 15:29-39*)
4. FIRSTFRUITS AND HARVEST (*Rev. 14:1-5, 14-16*)
5. WOMAN AND MANCHILD (*Rev. 12:1-17*)
6. MARTHA AND MARY (*Jn. 11:1-32*)
7. ENOCH AND ELIJAH (*Gen. 5:22-24, II Ki. 2:11-12*)
8. NOAH AND LOT (*Lk. 17:26-37*)
9. DANIEL AND THREE COMPANIONS (*Dan. 2:48-49, 3:10-27*)
10. QUEEN AND VIRGINS (*Ps. 45:9-16*)
11. BRIDE AND THOSE CALLED (*Rev. 19:7-9*)
12. "YE" AND "THEY" (*Lk. 12:35-36*)
13. SECOND AND THIRD WATCHES (*Lk. 12:37-40*)
14. JESUS' FIRST AND SECOND ASCENSIONS (*Jn. 20:17, Acts 1:9*)
15. FAITHFUL AND UNFAITHFUL SERVANTS (*Lk. 12:41-48*)
16. PETER, JAMES, JOHN AND REST OF DISCIPLES (*Matt. 17:1-18*)
17. OVERCOMERS AND CHURCHES (*Rev. 2, 3*)

As you can see, there are two contrasting groups in each Biblical illustration, and/or there are two distinct events or episodes which demonstrate the same pattern.

Christians have so often fought over pre-Tribulation and post-Tribulation rapture theories, each finding Scriptural support for their beliefs, with most polarizing to one point of view or the other. But very few ever seem to realize that there is some truth to both positions. I hope that after you have read this study, it will help you to "unify" all Scriptures in a beautiful picture of God's end-time plan, which clearly shows that some (a small number) will be translated before the Tribulation for the purpose of strategy, as well as to fulfill a certain "role"; and that a much greater number will be translated at the close of the Tribulation, for they will have a purpose to fulfill on earth during the Tribulation. For, contrary to traditional teaching, the Tribulation period will see the

greatest revival in human history. Even those translated first will minister on the earth at that time.

## *The Coming of Jesus WITH His Saints*

**J**ude. Jude, the brother of Jesus, who wrote the small book of *Jude* in the New Testament, quotes a prophecy from Enoch in *verse 14*:

*“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all.”*

Thus the coming of the Lord WITH His saints is at the time that the Lord personally and openly manifests Himself in the final act (or acts) of judgment which terminates this age, and puts an end to man’s misrule. This is in harmony with *II Thessalonians 1:7-8* where Paul states that

*“the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Notice, this is the time that He shall be revealed. The Greek word for “reveal “ is *apokalupto*, and it means to uncover and unveil something. Up until Jesus comes with His saints, at the very climax of the pouring out of the 7 vials of wrath, He will not be “revealed.” Previously, He comes as a “thief” at the beginning of the tribulation to call the First-fruits Bride. This begins His 3½ year “*parousia*” or presence: present in the atmosphere but unseen by those on earth.

Near the close of the Tribulation He calls the rest of the saints TO the marriage supper of the Lamb (*Rev. 19:9*), but still He must remain “veiled” except to those who have entered into His realm, until the 7 vials of wrath are poured out on the earth. During the pouring out of these vials, the marriage supper proceeds in the heavenlies. These vials of wrath will likely cover a very short period of time – perhaps not



more than a couple of weeks. THEN shall the entire company of glorified saints be ready to accompany the Lord in His visible descent to the earth, forming great "cloud banks" of glory around Him, and trailing off into the distance behind Him like a great "train" in resplendent procession.

**Revelation.** This final descent from the Heavenlies is pictured in *Revelation 19:11-16*. Notice that this follows the verses dealing with the "marriage supper" in *19:7-9*. John says, "*And I saw heaven opened*" (*19:11*); that is, what had been previously unseen by the remaining survivors on the earth would now be OPENLY viewed. They would "*see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory*" (*Matt. 24:30*). Then John proceeds:

*" . . . and behold, a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True. . . and the armies (glorified saints) which were in Heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean."*

We then have a statement that confirms the other Scriptures which indicate that as Jesus returns, He is consummating the vials of wrath and climaxing the final judgments:

*"And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations. . . and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness of the wrath of Almighty God. And He hath on his vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."*

*Revelation 19:15-17*

Remember in *Luke 17:29-30*, that the Lord, when speaking of the raining of fire and brimstone on Sodom, said: "*Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is REVEALED.*" Thus all these Scriptures agree that the Lord comes finally, and is revealed in consummating, cataclysmic judgments, when He returns WITH His saints. ◻

on Tomorrow's Highlights.

The reader need not be told about our touted Democracies. BULLY-BOYism shall have had its day! May its corpse stink throughout eons. Howbeit, its lingering Death-spasms may continue a few to several decades. While, in non-Christian lands, the Beast might continue to live for a long time.

This writer knows nothing about 'Tomorrow' but I believe God's Word, with which I am better familiar than most people. Throughout a decade and more, I have expected the Lord to commence His "*Strange Act*," and to bring His "*Strange work*" to a conclusion within the 1274 days which shall close the 14th of Tishri, whatever the year. At that unforgettable and epochal hour will Israel's rejected Messiah touch down on Mt. Olivet (to an earth-rending WELCOMING cry from 144,000 Jewish throats in Palestine! "*Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!*" (Lk. 13:35).

Eight days later He will speak audibly to Jerusalem and His people. *That* becomes the incipient inception of "God's Kingdom on earth" for His people in Palestine.

As we check the Ancient Record we find that the Creator ever commences in a small way: Adam, Noah and his 3 sons, Moses with Aaron and Miriam, then the miracle-performing Messiah Who shortly chose twelve to follow, that they might "Bear witness of Him." Wherefore, the Kingdom's inception in Jerusalem does not imply that His Kingdom also incepts for the lands of Christendom, simultaneously. The first one or two Christian nations which will follow Jerusalem's lead shall be small, 'no-account' nations; and that – perhaps – within one year. We might also surmise that the prevailing conditions within those one or two lands shall be far from enviable. For, they shall have endured the villainies of the Beast throughout 3 years or more. . . .

How many years or decades shall be required for all of Christendom to follow Jerusalem's lead, is not for me to even guess at. But it is my belief that the approximate conditions

set forth in my *COMING NEW SOCIETY* book will become implemented as "a nibbling" at The Kingdom conditions! Powerful, egotistic nations of today, under the leadership of our 'Idols', will be somewhat like unto the Aaronite Priesthood in the days of their Messiah. But with this difference: although keenly resentful of the threat to their rulership and prestige, they shall have no plot to murder the glorious Lord (as did their predecessors).

I *believe* that the Christian community set up in Jerusalem after Pentecost, under the leadership of James, was Hybrid. Similarly will some strong nations endeavor to implement a Hybrid Kingdom of God! It may somewhat vary in different lands, but running 'neck and neck' with the outlines of the *COMING NEW SOCIETY*.

Looking back many decades, we find several different groups setting up communities of their own. They were persons of an ethnic group and specific religious faith, who believed they could live together cooperatively; thereby becoming happier and more prosperous.

But, as the 9th day of June, 1979 dawned, a new group blossomed into reality! They became known as Shepherdsfield.... I believe that the reason for their continuous progress is not founded merely on cooperation; but the fact they had received God's Truth-word, and believed that should be lived!

Other communities also have Christian convictions, but many are so tarnished by "the Devil's interpretation of Christ," that their iron foundation is mixed with miry clay. Seemingly, their principle progress has been chiefly materialistic. But Shepherdsfield has, and is, reaching out to innumerable thousands, setting Christ's Truth-word before them (by which the "Devil's interpretation" is shown up).

With these vital factors considered, it is my belief that Shepherdsfield shall become A MODEL for others to copy. For, it commenced with Christ as the sure foundation stone. The "One Man" in acceptance of Christ's TRUTH unto man.

*"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with ONE accord in ONE place."*

*Acts 2:1*

*"And the multitude of them that believed were of ONE heart and of ONE soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common."*

*Acts 4:32*

Wherefore, it seems probable, even likely, that following the Messiah's return, other groups on this continent will follow examples set by such as Shepherdsfield.

We could say that aside from Christ and His TRUTH BROUGHT OUT FOR HIS CHILDREN, the first great lesson to be learned by any person or group, becomes learning to live together as *one family*; "brothers and sisters" eagerly helping one another! There can be no separate but equal ethnic or religious multiplicity philosophies.

When several such communities have demonstrated that they do live together successfully as "one family" (all 'siblings'), then they also learn to live similarly in relationship with other communities based on the 'Model'. THUS and thereby is the foundation laid and achieved for the ever-increasing Kingdom of God on earth, here and now.

Make doubly certain you never forget: there can never be any "Kingdom of God" ruled over by "the gods of this century." Neither can any of their devilishly invented schemes and practices be found in any Kingdom of God!

Briefly it could be put: "One people, in their God-given boundaries, of one faith; one language, one God." There can never be any "capital" borrowed at interest, there shall be no foreign investments, no UNemployment, no Labor Unions, no 'idols'. There shall be no pomposity (true leaders or directors, sacrifice).

There shall be no Stock Exchange nor gambling dens.

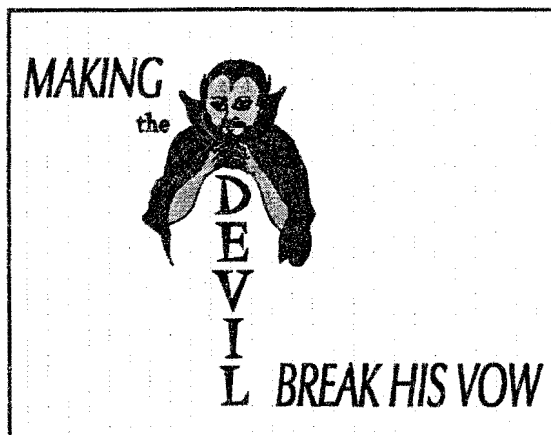
There shall be no skyscrapers, neither human ant-heaps (cities); most of the people shall dwell independently on the land. No trace of the present monetary system shall ever be found in any Kingdom of God. No drugs, few hospitals (but far apart), a few doctors and constables in the early stages of the Kingdom. Each nation will keep to its own oneness. No differing sects or denominations. No "foreign ownership"! Neither any "free trade" of the nature recently known.

More could be said, but all and whatever must be within the confines of a noble father's love for his family.

*"...the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. ...They shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God. ...Behold: your God will come with vengeance...! The eyes of the blind shall be opened.... Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing...! And an highway shall be there, ...THE WAY OF HOLINESS: the unclean shall not pass over it.... No lion shall be there...but the redeemed shall walk there: and the ransomed of the Lord shall return...with...everlasting joy...and sorrow and sighing shall flee away!"*

*from Isaiah 35 □*

## Chapter 20



by ELLIOTT STEARNS

The end of the 2nd Millennium has taken place, and soon will end the present age of darkness. Though there is good reason to expect a major change in the times because of the septa-millennial pattern in which 6, 1000-year periods are likened to the 6 days of a week, with the upcoming millennium a 1000-year sabbath, there is another pattern which also portends a major transition in these next few years.

A deadline is discovered in *Hosea 6:2*, which tells us:

*"After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight."*

Additionally, Jesus said of His ministry:

*"Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to*

*morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected."*

*Luke 13:32*

A full commentary on the meaning of these verse, especially in the light of their contexts, is impossible in this short study; but one thing is clear: Jesus intends there to be a glorious finishing of His work on the Third 1000-year Day since the birth of Christ. Those with eyes to see can see the patterns clearly:

*"Now it came to pass ON THE THIRD DAY, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house. And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre. Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom."*

*Esther 5:1*

*"And THE THIRD DAY there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there...."*

*John 2:1*

This is the time that the Bride and the Bridegroom – the perfected portion of the Church and the Lord Jesus Himself – come together to be One, forever. This "oneness" implies nothing between them; no "space"; "one flesh," albeit in a spiritual sense.

But today we see there is a "space" between those who would be the Lord's Bride and Him. He is, after all, in the heavenlies, and she is on earth. And in between...the accuser Lucifer! For he is the *"Prince of the power of the air"* (Eph. 2:2) and occupies that in-between territory where he strives to keep the Bride from her Beloved by *any* means at his dis-

posal.

His power over the saints lies in his ability to be the one *"which accused them before our God day and night"* (Rev. 12:10). Something is needed to *bind* Satan and remove him from the "space" between the Bridegroom and the Bride. The Lord has the power, but does not exercise it for a very simple reason: He does not wish the "space" to be bridged until the Bride is so *"sick with love"* for Him that she takes full advantage of all the Lord's resources and teachings and spirit-power to **●** bridge the gap and be One with Him.

His own overcoming of the world and Lucifer is the Pattern to be followed. When the Bride fully learns the "new song" which teaches the full meaning of overcoming, she will arise and truly BE the Lord's "greatly beloved." She shall be supremely loved because she shall supremely love Him, to the extent of doing all that it takes to follow Him...regardless of cost or inconvenience or pain or sorrow or suffering.

*"Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him."*

*Isaiah 30:18 NASB*

Once the Bride is "caught up," there is no more excuse for the Devil's presence in the "in-between." She – the Bride – has overcome all that he – the Devil – can throw at her; and thus proven to Lucifer himself that his power to keep mankind under sentence of death is broken. Ever since the Resurrection there has needed to be a testimony or witness that Jesus was true in that teaching of His which thunders: *"If a man keep My saying, he shall never see death"* (Jn. 8:51).

Long ages past, Satan made a vow which is summed up in *Isaiah 14:14*:

*"I WILL ascend above the heights of the clouds;  
I WILL be like the most High."*

I call this a vow (or oath) because of the utter finality of



the gamble the Devil was making. If he once attempted this course, there would be no turning back. Therefore an oath it was, with either the highest glory or the lowest disgrace his ultimate fate. The Hebrew verb form used in *Isaiah 14* (the “qal imperfect”) frequently denotes what is firmly established with no ambiguity or ambivalence (the first three of over 900 usages in the Old Testament are: *Genesis 2:8* [“**I WILL make him an help meet...**”]; *Genesis 3:15* [“**I WILL put enmity...**”]; and *Genesis 6:7* [“**I WILL destroy man...**”]).

Satan and his oath are one. His entire being and all of his substantial resources are channelled to the fulfillment of this one purpose. Contrast Satan’s oath –

*“I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt MY THRONE above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north...”*

*Isaiah 14:13,*

with the Lord’s personal promise to His overcomers:

*“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in MY THRONE, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne.”*

*Revelation 3:21*

There can only be one or the other which ultimately sits upon a throne in heaven, and Lucifer knows it. When the Manchild company of the overcomers is “*caught up unto God, and to His throne*” (*Rev. 12:5*) then is the TRUE pattern and means of ascent to God’s throne revealed in the lives of those who overcame, and who put into practice what those means are (i.e. the beatitude virtues: poverty of spirit, meekness, mercy, etc.). Satan’s means of ascent (i.e. arrogance, pride, murder, lying, etc.) are then forever seen to be utterly bankrupt in terms of achieving any lasting success.

The overcomers at this point are openly revealed to be a “*stronger than he*” (i.e. Lucifer), and thus have authority to do the things such an one can do to the conquered foe – “*he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth*

*his spoils" (Lk. 11:21-22).*

Vows are mentioned several times in Scripture. Though it is, we are told, imperative to *keep* one's vow, I find only one place (*Eccles. 5:6*) where the consequences of *not* keeping a vow are given. Nonfulfillment leads to the Lord "*destroy[ing] the work of thine hands.*" The 144,000 Firstfruits Company is a living exhibition of those who have gloriously made visible what Jesus came to do, they: "*destroy the works of the devil*" (*I Jn. 3:8*). Because of them the Devil is "*cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him*" (*Rev. 12:9*). For a short while Satan is allowed to operate upon the earth, but at the end of the Great Tribulation, when a great multitude of overcomers which no man can number *also* comes forth, even this space is denied him. Then comes an Angel with a chain. "*And he laid hold on the dragon and bound him a thousand years*" (*Rev. 20:1-2*). □

## Chapter 21



**MIKKEL DAHL**

Back through the last several decades, I have set forth a maze of prophetic Bible evidence that the end of this era is close to hand. While during the last few years a stepped-up tempo of the same. But invariably I STRESS THIS ONE POINT, THAT DUE TO CHRONOLOGICAL UNCERTAINTIES DEALING WITH PAST EVENTS, WE SHOULD NOT BECOME DOGMATIC AS TO THE PRECISE YEAR OR YEARS. THAT IS WHY I WATCH WORLD EVENTS AND LOOK FOR SOMETHING OF AN ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN NATURE: AN ABSOLUTE TIME-MARKER THAT WE MAY KNOW FOR A CERTAINTY WE ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

Israel of old in the wilderness wondered what they were to eat: God gave them "bread from heaven." With this they were not satisfied so they hungered for ordinary meat that they might gorge to their fill. In abundance was it waiting for them, even fresh and on the wing dropping down so soon as they asked for it!

These mighty miracles of old actually did take place! God wanted to set the pattern: to paint for us in living drama that which He has prepared for those who love Him even in our here and now! Such is the nature of the covenant He gave unto those who would follow Him.

Again I set forth this series of overwhelming revelations in order that the true believer may know his time is up. Most of so called believers of today are nowhere near ready for the Lord's return. They have been lulled to sleep by the spurious dogmas of the church, that His kingdom conditions must first be established by man on earth before our Lord can return. Unto this they add that no one shall know the time of His return. All of which serves to put the believer into a state of spiritual slumber. They are lukewarm or worse. Therefore, wrote His beloved Apostle of old when speaking of the Lord's return, that those who have this hope in them purify themselves even as He is pure (*I Jn. 3:3*).

That gives me further reason to look for these signs and to reach out for more of His revelations, that they shall constitute an overflowing maze of evidence underscoring the fact that our time is up. When I say "our time is up," I am not talking about the end of the world, neither the end of our civilization, neither any harebrained idea arising from Faust's inferno, but rather that Lucifer's kingdom era is about to terminate as the preliminary kingdom conditions of Jesus Christ for this earth commences inaugurating.

Although an avalanche of rubbish will be swept away, earth conditions of peace and joy as never known before shall commence intruding. People shall learn how to live in health, strength and joy with an abundance of the things required

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unto a happy life. The way unto health and everlasting life right here on earth shall become known to man.

That which I now teach shall be made common knowledge with much more detail added. But with this one great difference, instead of it coming through a humble and unknown servant, it will be made public knowledge with power of God attesting to its authority. That will give all dumb clucks and doubting Thomases reason to believe: thus will the kingdom inaugurate with a great tide of joy.

So, back to our "signs" and prophetic measures. One by itself would be quite sufficient, were that to be the unequivocal word of God. God will not lie, neither does He guess: He knows the end from the beginning. But it is man's misunderstanding of God's Word, and thus man is deceived. Not by God, but by his own finite understanding.

Even as in the days of our Lord and Savior, His chosen people were expecting their Messiah at the time, yet failed to recognize Him. Why? Abundant were the prophecies detailing His coming, and even measuring the exact time that He should appear. But at the time, His people were under the iron heel of Rome. From the heathen, as it were, did they yearn for deliverance from that oppression. They could only understand their Messiah as another David, even a man of war, who would put the legions of Rome into massive flight with the Jews at their heels and their Messiah a glorious King before Whom the world would tremble and all monarchs come to pay Him homage.

Had Jesus of Nazareth come walking across the boisterous Sea of Galilee, brandishing a gleaming sword, feeding vast multitudes with but a basketful of fish and bread, and telling them that their day of deliverance had arrived, according to the promise of the ancient Prophets, then would the entirety of Jewry have followed Him to a man, and proclaimed Him King of all.

That approximates the picture of their expectations; since

His person and manners were so different they could not receive Him. They had misunderstood the prophecies. That is what we must be on guard against these days lest we misunderstand His word and measures of time.

I have shown forth a hundred and more signs, all in agreement, that these years shall see His promises fulfilling to the world's utter amazement. Yet these are according to Mikkel Dahl, and many of them contain elements of uncertainty. Wherefore, I think it right that we scan the heavens and the earth, and deeply look into His word that our confidence may be sure.

## Chapter 22



by Mikkil Dahl

Isn't it wonderful news that our time of waiting is almost ended? What a joyous expectation to await the King of righteousness, Who will establish peace throughout the earth, and a government for the people, founded in love and righteousness. Think not that my words are merely words invented by man, for I have a glorious testimony by the Lord Jesus Himself as recorded in the *21st chapter* of *Luke's* gospel. Some of these you shall read shortly, and I will then show you how there is prophecy with a definite time measure attached covering our era of waiting: that era of waiting is now running its last grains of sand.

In this *21st chapter* of *Luke's* gospel, we find the Lord sitting upon the Mount of Olives with His twelve disciples, speaking to them of events which should take place; and especially of those events which should immediately precede His return to earth. First, great distress should come upon the nations with increasing perplexity. Then in *verse 27* we read of His return to earth in these words, "*And then shall they see the*

*Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.*" That is what Christendom has awaited over 19 centuries, but now thank God, the days of awaiting are almost ended.

### ***IF WE CAN'T KNOW THE TIME, WHY WATCH?***

Don't let anyone kid you, that we cannot know the time. It is correct that we shall not know the 'hour', but we shall certainly know the approximate time. Usually people who believe that no one can know the time quote the words of our Lord when He said,

*"But of that day and hour knoweth  
no man, no, not the angels of heaven but by Father only."*

*Matthew 24:36*

However, in this case as in so many another, our theologians have interpreted the Word of God, so that it makes no sense whatever. When we turn to *Matthew 24, verses 35 and 36*, we find that when He spoke those words, He had just been speaking about Heaven and earth which should eventually pass away; and in that selfsame breath speaking of identically that same event, did He say that no one knew the day and the hour, except the Heavenly Father. The heavens and our earth shall vanish away some time (*Rev. 21:1*): when, we do not know; but according to the prophecies there are at least many thousands of years yet to go for other events to fulfill, which must come to pass before the earth passes away. And it was of that day and hour He spoke when He said, that no one, no, not even the angels of Heaven, but the Father only knew that time.

So in the future when you hear someone referring to this passage, which says that no one can know, that will give you a good chance to quote the previous verse, and to show that they are definitely linked together with that one word "*but.*" We have well over 100 prophecies, all agreeing that these very years are to be the closing moments of our era, which shall be climaxed by the heavens lighting up with the glory of the returning Son of God. In all sincerity I ask, what bet-



ter news is it possible to bring you?

*"When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?"*

**Matthew 16:2-3**

## **PRAY ALWAYS**

So, when the Lord has spoken of all these things which were to take place before the conclusion of the age, He uttered this special warning as we find it in **Luke 21, verses 34 through 36**:

*"And take heed to yourselves lest at any time you hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness and the cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore and pray always that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."*

How is it possible to always be praying? I believe that the most devout among us fall far short of that. Of course, we could interpret His word to mean that we should pray often, but I have confidence that our Lord had both the intelligence and honesty to have used the word 'often' or 'frequently' or 'repeatedly' or any number of other expressions, which could properly have conveyed that thought, so why didn't He? For the simple reason He meant precisely what He said.

On this occasion the word which has been rendered pray, as we find in the original Greek texts, is not the same word which is commonly rendered to pray. The radical meaning of the word means *'to bind or tie'*, while in a less radical sense it is used to imply an urgent request.

What our Lord referred to was precisely the same happy message I am trying to put over to you. That is, that we must

get so tied or bound to our Lord that Christ becomes our very life, not just while we are in church or in deep prayer, but every moment of the time. It is the same as what in other places He referred to as "*believing into Him.*"

When we have been born into the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, and have learned to live as sons and daughters of the Son of God, then does our being so fill with the Spirit of our Lord that we are perpetually conscious of His unceasing Presence. That is what He referred to as having become tied, or bound to Him with that unbreakable bond, by which He is a vital, and a joyous, part of our moment by moment existence.

### ***LIVE IN HIS PRESENCE***

You need not be preaching the gospel or healing the sick in order to live in the consciousness of His Presence. You may be washing the dishes, mowing the lawn, or buying the groceries; still the joy of His Spirit and the power of His Presence can, and should, so fill your being as to make you sing at the top of your voice. Perhaps circumstances would not make that prudent, but if so, you can still be effervescing with the joy of His Spirit.

Now observe His words, "*That you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things. . .*" I am aware how the average Christian thinks of that as referring to some very special troubles in the very last days, and that is quite correct, yet only a portion of the truth. For, His expression "*all these things that shall come to pass*" takes in the entire range of difficulties, troubles, distress and sorrows, and whatsoever comes within the catalog of human adversities: that is how our Lord said we would be accounted worthy to escape, if in the proper spirit we got 'bound' to Him.

The trouble is that the world has been taken in the net of Lucifer; we have been brought up in his universities, we have been schooled in his lies, we have been taught his illusions, and we have eaten so much of the tare-seed which he planted while men slept, that we have become blind, sick and halluci-

nated to such extent that man believes he was born unto sorrow, unending troubles and eventual death. But from all of this came the very Son of God from Heaven to fully set us free! And that He did!

### ***THE 'MYSTERY' OF SLEEP***

Perhaps it may be a mystery to you just how the crucifixion of our Lord could fully set us free, but so what? It is not so important that you understand that so called mystery; what is important is the fact that it *works*. Our best medical scientists tell us that they can in no way explain how the simple matter of going to sleep can restore our energies and give us a feeling of freshness and fitness for the day. They admit their absolute ignorance when it comes to the simple matter of sleep. But so what? How many of us are concerned over *that* mystery? Is it not sufficient for all of us that we can happily go to sleep, knowing that we shall awaken rested and fit for another day? From experience we know that sleep possesses that almost magic power. That is what counts. So similarly with the power of the Son of God to set us fully free though His atoning work on Calvary. If you don't understand, just forget it – even as we do the mystery of sleep. But, like sleep, it works – *if* you give Him a chance.

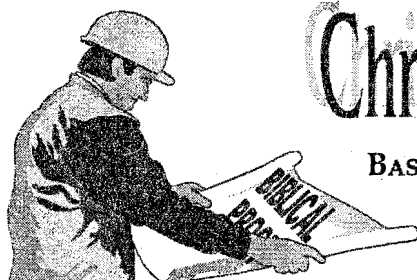
So if you have been born into the kingdom of Jesus Christ, then in spirit get yourself so tied or bound to the Lord that you are perpetually aware of His Presence, and that unceasingly you rejoice in the joy of His Spirit. Then will you come to know that the atonement for you was fully accomplished, to that glorious end that you are now accounted worthy to escape every possible calamity in the catalog of man's adversities.

That is the even more marvelously happy news I have for you, that

***we can have heaven on earth here and now!***

## Chapter 23

# PATTERNS to look for concerning



# Christ's Return

BASED ON BIBLE PROPHECY

by **Mikkel Dahl**

*Edited by Jon R. Welker*

**A**: Nisan 7: the “two witnesses” of *Revelation 11:3* will be due to appear in Jerusalem  $3\frac{1}{2}$  days previous to the Rapture of the “Firstfruits” of *Revelation 14:4* (also referred to as the “Bride-Elect”).

**B**: Nisan 10: 144,000 “Firstfruits” will be translated into the Heavens. Even though the report goes forth from Jerusalem that two strange characters are predicting gloom and doom, the world will shrug it off. Therefore, when 144,000 men (maybe “besides women and children”) vanish into thin air, the “remnant of her seed” will go into near hysteria! The Pope flees the Vatican: Rome arises to much shed blood.

**C**: Nisan 16: The 144,000 reappear to witness unto the remaining lukewarm Christians. This will somewhat quell the chaos in churches.

**D**: Nisan 23: The “*Beast*” of *Revelation 13* receives “power” or authorization to take absolute control; implementing decisions without prior consultations. Many believe that the Beast’s “power” will be supernatural. Maybe. . . .

**E**: Iyar 24: (40 days after Passover): The returned 144,000 shall be seen returning to the Heavens. Neither this prophecy nor that of “C” can be established by Scripture! Both of these are claims made by Mikkel Dahl.

**F**: Sivan 6 (*Shavuoth: Pentecost*): An epochal day (*Joel 2:28-31; Acts 2:18-21*). “Pentecost” has been known and observed throughout more than 3,000 years. But the claims made herein, attributed to *that* Pentecost, cannot be established by Scripture. They – like those of C & E – are prophecies by Mikkel Dahl.

**G**: A 4-nation military Pact will be achieved to destroy Israel and to subjugate all of Christendom (*Rev. 9:14*).

**H**: End of Kislev or beginning of Tebeth: Opening of World War III, which lasts 644 days (*Rev. 17:12*). This is Scripturally founded, but never understood by ‘pulpit parrots’.

**I**: Elul 27 (3 days before Tishri 1): The “two witnesses” in Jerusalem get killed by the “Beast” (*Rev. 11:7-12*). This is Bible-founded, and hence inevitable.

**J**: Tishri 1 (*Rosh Hashanah: the Feast of Trumpets*): The Lord gathers His ‘Harvest’ (*Rev. 7:9-14*). The Lord’s ‘Harvest’ is Scriptural, but its ‘timing’, as herein set forth, is by Mikkel Dahl.

**K**: Tishri 1: Nuclear war opens near 10 a.m. Jerusalem time. This timing is but prophecy by the writer.

**L**: Tishri 1: The Lord Almighty “goes to war” against Israel’s warring enemies (*Zech. 14:3*). This is Scriptural, but its timing as herein set forth is by Mikkel Dahl.

**M**: Tishri 10 (*Yom Kippur: The Day of Atonement*): On this day terminates the dread Armageddon. Yom Kippur and

Armageddon are both of the Bible, but their specifics as herein presented are again “according to Mikkel Dahl” as revealed to him by the Lord.

**N**: Tishri 15 (*Succoth: The 1st Day of Tabernacles [Booths]*): Towards sunset, the Lord’s feet contact the Mt. of Olives (*Zech 14:4; Matt. 24:30*). The Lord’s return is Scriptural, but details herein are by Mikkel Dahl.

**O**: Tishri 23 (*Succoth: 8th Day of Tabernacles Booths*): The returned Lord may be expected to speak audibly in Jerusalem. The day following 7 days of “booths” is highlighted in Scripture. It is believed by Mikkel Dahl that the returned Lord will then – once more – openly and audibly speak to His people as in ancient days from Mt. Sinai. □

## Chapter 24

# TIME SEQUENCE

of  
**Revelation**  
Chapters 1 through 22

by **MIKKEL DAHL**  
Edited by **JON R. WELKER**

### CHAPTER

- 1:** Is but INTRODUCTORY to all of that which follows.
- 2** Open about 90 A.D., and are continuously operative (applicable) until the Lord returns to earth –
- &**
- 3:** as promised. Its substance could be said to obtain so long as human beings remain on earth.
- 4:** Is descriptive of that which the Revelator was given to behold in Heaven.
- 5:** Is a continuation of scenes and dramas in the Heavens.
- 6:** This pinpoints the decade of the 1920s A.D. and continues until mid-August 1945.
- 7:** Opened in late August '45 highlighting until the Lord's return to earth.
- 8:** Opens mid-June, whatever year, and continues a year or two.
- 9:** This is confined to the first 3 or 4 years of the de-

cade leading into the "Last Days."

- 10:** Is of about three years duration .
- 11:** Is synonymous in time with that of *Chapter 10*; dealing with "the Last Days."
- 12:** Is also limited to the years leading into "the Last Days." "Dragon makes war. . . ."
- 13:** Deal with the era of "the Beast," which period is also confined to the "last Days," progressing through other years.
- 14:** Identifies in time with the previous few chapters and opens with the Rapture of the Bride-elect, but extends about 2 weeks beyond the Lord's ingathering of His Harvest.
- 15:** Is only introductory to *Chapter 16*, bespeaking what the Revelator saw in "one split moment" in Eternity, in anticipation of the horrors facing world's humanity when "the cup of the Lord's wrath" is poured out upon earth.
- 16:** Is limited to 13.333 days, opening by nuclear war, until the returning Lord touches down on Olivet. But **verses 12-15** do not belong in this Chapter.
- 17:** This vision glances back into the first century A.D., but concludes with the last few years of our Christian Dispensation.
- 18:** Pinpoints the sunseting hour of Tishri 14 as the Lord touches Olivet, but by "in one day" and "in one hour" glances back to the moments immediately following the rapture of the Bride-elect. Note "the Great Babylon" here mentioned back-dates only 644 days.
- 19:** Great rejoicing in Heaven on Yom Kippur because it is the day of the One and only "marriage" in the Heavens. The Wedding guests arrived 9 days previously to get groomed for the super-colossal moment. On earth the Armageddon rages. Birds and Beasts of Prey



are also called to the Lord's great "Supper"! This may also include the converging of Fighters and Bombers over Palestine. As the Sun sets on earth, the Son of God has His Bride alongside, plus many millions of "household servants" facing. Now, all relax throughout 4 days, even as 4,000 years passed by until His incarnation. Are "emotions" known in Heaven? IF so, they intensify to a crescendo towards sunset, Tishri 14 when the Lord's 'Army' – millions strong – return to earth. They disperse to millions of "Battle Stations," not to kill, but to RESCUE millions who would otherwise perish when Planet Earth goes into convulsions at the impact of the Lord's feet! They were pinned to the Cross 19½ centuries ago, and immobile on earth until He again steps down. But again FREE to walk with His people throughout 8.4 years. . . .

- 20:** Much rejoicing in Heaven, and by His Chosen on earth as He returns to earth. But as the vision continues, it also looks back almost 14 days when the White Horse Cavalry charges into Battle for the redemption of Israel and the preservation of Jerusalem and its people.
- 21:** Details the vision of future glories unto those who have come unto God because of ancient Calvary. There is no specified time, but presumably manifest progressively from 2,000 or 2,001 A.D.
- 22:** Although this chapter highlights the time immediately following the Lord's return to earth, and the resurrected David becomes Prince over the Lord's people, inaugurating the "Kingdom of God" on earth then and there; yet I claim that the "Tree of Life" has ever been available here on earth ever since Calvary and the Day of Pentecost following. But the SUBSTANCE of Spirit Truth mentioned is not limited to eras of time. So be it.

# GRAPH FOR THE LAST DAYS

